Better Homes & Gardens

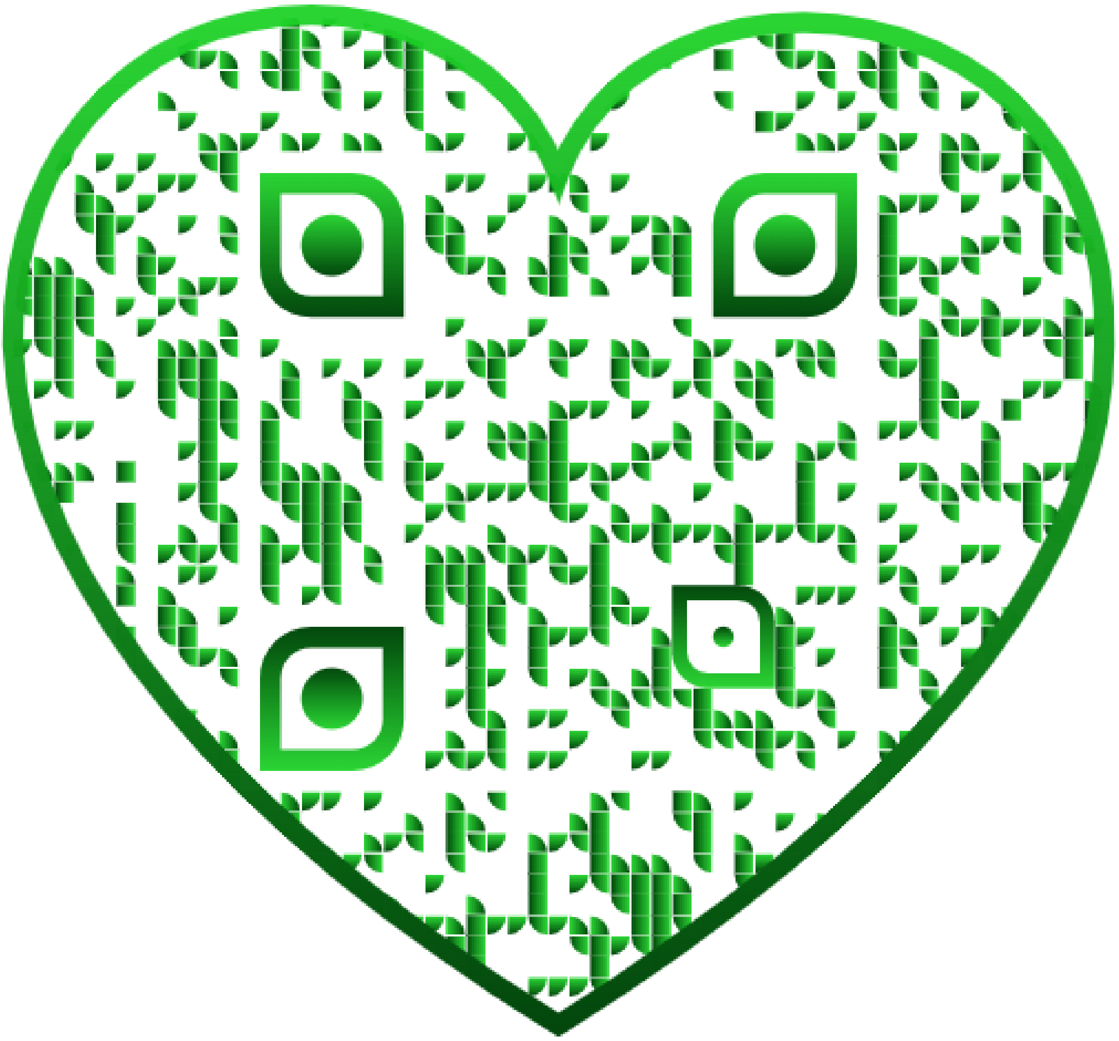
cottage STYLE™

SETTLE INTO COZY SEASON

FALL DECOR WITH A VINTAGE TWIST

TOP COLORS FOR YOUR SPACES

Fall 2025



SHERWIN WILLIAMS®

TREASURE THE MOMENT,
CAPTURE THE COLOR.

Try on color with no mess or dry time with Peel & Stick samples.

Tradewind
White Sand
SW 9582

ORDER SAMPLES ONLINE OR VISIT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SHERWIN-WILLIAMS STORE.

ORDER NOW

© 2025 The Sherwin-Williams Company
Actual color may vary from printed representation. Always view a physical color sample prior to purchase.

cottage STYLE™

Editor KATY KIICK CONDON
Designer ALISON GAMM
Copy Editor ELLA FIELD
Contributing Editor LACEY HOWARD
Proofreader ERIKA BJORKLUND
Senior Editorial Operations Specialist
ASHLEY JACOBS

FOOD
Executive Editor SHELLI MCCONNELL
Senior Content Manager JESSICA SAARI CHRISTENSEN
Senior Editors MADALYN BENDGEN; CAITLYN DIIMIG, RD
Senior Brand Manager JULI HALE
Brand Manager EMILY NIENHAUS
Culinary Specialist BARRETT HEALD
Senior Food Stylist and Coordinator LAUREN MCANELLY
Senior Food Stylist ANNIE PROBST
Food Stylist HOLLY DREESMAN

HOME, GARDEN & QUILTING
Executive Editor KATY KIICK CONDON
Senior Editors DORIS BRUNNETTE, NICOLE DEAN,
EMILY ELVERU, KRISSA ROSSBUND
Editor ELLA SCHULTE
Better Homes & Gardens Test Garden® Manager
SANDRA GERDES

ART
Design Directors STEPHANIE HUNTER, KIMBERLY MORGAN METZ,
MICK SCHNEPF
Art Directors EMILY BUTTERWORTH, KRISTIN CLEVELAND,
ELIZABETH STUMBO, ANNIE WALDEN
Associate Art Director ALISON GAMM

EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATION
Copy Chief ERIKA BJORKLUND
Senior Copy Editors MADELAINE JEROUSEK-SMITH,
MARTHA COLOFF LONG
Copy Editor ELLA FIELD
Senior Manager, Editorial Operations HOLLY PRUETT
Assistant Editorial Business Manager GABRIELLE RENSLOW
Senior Editorial Operations Specialist ASHLEY JACOBS
Editorial Operations Specialist SANDRA JOHNSON
Photography Coordinator JAKE ROUDABUSH
Senior Director, Print Premedia Services DALE TUNENDER
Senior Director, Quality JOSEPH KOHLER
Vice President, Content Studios ALLISON LOWERY
Director, Test Kitchen LYNN BLANCHARD
Studios Content Director GREG LUNA
Photo Studio Set Construction Manager DAVE DECARLO
Senior Stylist and Producer JOSEPH WANEK
Stylists BREANNA GHAZALI, LEXI JUHL
Studios Prop Coordinator HOLLY RAIBIKIS
Premedia Trafficking Supervisor JACQUELINE BEARD
Director, Premedia Imaging MICHAEL STURTZ
Premedia Color Quality Analyst JOHN SANTUCCI

CONTRIBUTING FIELD EDITORS
Sarah Alba, Darra Baker, Andrea Caughey, Kimberly Clarke, Jennifer Berno DeCleene, Paige Porter Fischer, Jessica Brinkert Holtam, Lacey Howard, Marni Elyse Katz, Kelly Kegans, Karin Lidbeck-Brent, Elaine Markoutsas, Tovah Martin, Cathy Still McGowin, Anna Molvik, Lisa Mowry, Eleanor Lynn Nesmith, Heidi Pearson, Karen Reinecke, Margaret Zainey Roux, Khristi S. Zimmeth

FOR EDITORIAL QUESTIONS, EMAIL COTTAGESTYLE@MEREDITH.COM
OR WRITE US AT *COTTAGE STYLE*,
PREMIUM PUBLISHING,
1716 LOCUST ST., DES MOINES, IA 50309-3023

PREMIUM PUBLISHING
Vice President & General Manager
JEREMY BILOON
Vice President & Editor in Chief JILL WAAGE
Vice President, Editorial Operations & Finance
GREG KAYKO

Executive Director, Business Development &
Partnerships MEGAN PEARLMAN
Associate Director, Business Development &
Partnerships NINA REED
Senior Director, Brand Marketing JEAN KENNEDY
Associate Director, Brand Marketing
KATHERINE BARNET
Senior Brand Manager GEOFFREY WOHLGAMUTH
Brand Manager MIA RINALDI
Associate Brand Manager GABBY AMELLO

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION
Business Director JENNA BATES
Senior Business Manager LISA CARLSON

CIRCULATION
Consumer Marketing Manager
LYNN BOLINGER

ADVERTISING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Vice President & Head of Sales, Lifestyle
TIFFANY EHASZ
tiffany.ehasz@dotdashmdp.com
Executive Director & Food and Beverage Lead
DAVID GINSBERG
david.ginsberg@dotdashmdp.com
Executive Director & Home/CPG Lead
MARGARET GRAFF
margaret.graff@dotdashmdp.com

ADVERTISING OPERATIONS
1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023
Production Director PATRICK MCGOWAN
Senior Production Manager, Country Home
JULEE EVANS
Production Managers APRIL GROSS,
TREVI JONES, ASHLEY SCHAUBROECK

DIRECT MEDIA
Executive Director TYLER HUB
tyler.hub@dotdashmdp.com

DOTDASH MEREDITH
President, Lifestyle
ALYSIA BORSA
Senior Vice President & Group General Manager
MÉLANIE BERLIET

Chief Revenue Officer
BRIAN KIGHTLINGER
Vice President, Lifestyle Marketing
KRISTIN GUINAN

NEWS MEDIA ALLIANCE

Dotdash meredith

Please Recycle This Magazine

For syndication or international licensing requests, email syndication.generic@dotdashmdp.com.
For reprint and reuse permission, email mmc.permissions@dotdashmdp.com.
PRINTED IN THE USA

from the editors

We proclaimed it on the cover, so you know it must be true: It's Cozy Season! As the colors change and leaves fall, days are getting shorter and our homes start to call us back inside for some much needed nesting.

And just like cottage style can shift to suit different tastes, cozy vibes can be created in any number of ways. It all comes down to feeling embraced and warm from the inside out. Look no further than *page 80* ("Scene Stealer") for a reading nook dripping with deep colors and layers of fabrics in vintage-inflected patterns. The couch is made for curling up—truly, Peak Cozy.

But maybe for you, natural materials reign supreme and you embrace the idea of bringing the outside in. Check out the wood paneled walls extending up and across the ceiling in one family's lakeside fishing cabin, creating a sense of all-encompassing warmth ("Happy Little Camper," *page 16*).

Do you tend to be a little more detail oriented? It's true, flourishes like canopied beds and a few extra pillows can go a mile toward making spaces feel comfy and snug. But may we suggest starting with a base of just-right colors? Flip the page to see our guide to no-fail wood/paint combos and get ideas to tweak your palette so your trim, floors, and colors work together.

Design and materials aside, sometimes all you need to feel cozy is to surround yourself with family and friends. The California family in "Soft Focus," *page 88,* designed their home with a serene palette and lots of extra seating—all the better to welcome their local social circle. Unfortunately, this house burned during the 2025 Palisades fire, a sad coda to a beautiful story about a stylish—and yes, cozy—home. The family plans to rebuild with an eye toward maintaining the all-are-welcome factor of the home you see here. But ultimately, their story is proof that what matters most is being surrounded by the people you love.

The Editors

table of contents

4 Wood Working
Our master class on adding color that works with your wood.

8 Blue-Sky Thinking
A smart save/splurge strategy helps a couple remake their small cottage.

16 Happy Little Camper
A 1930s fish camp cabin gets a second life with modern updates built to last.

22 Building On Memories
Cheerful decor helps a new lakeside cottage pay homage to a family's history.

30 Taking It Easy
One couple reimagined their 1970s split-level ranch—one project at a time.

38 Diamond in the Rough
A down-on-its-luck bungalow was saved by a team who could see its bright future.

44 New Meets Nostalgic
Character cues from the past informed a new farmhouse built on family land.

52 From First to Forever
It was supposed to be a starter home. But 14 years later, it's filled with DIY sweat equity and family memories.

60 Perfect Storm
A Nantucket cottage conjures visions of storied characters and shifting seas.

66 Endless Summer
The renovation of an 1894 cottage marries timeless charm with modern ease.

74 Stylishly Simple
One designer proves "less is more" for a family's lakefront retreat.

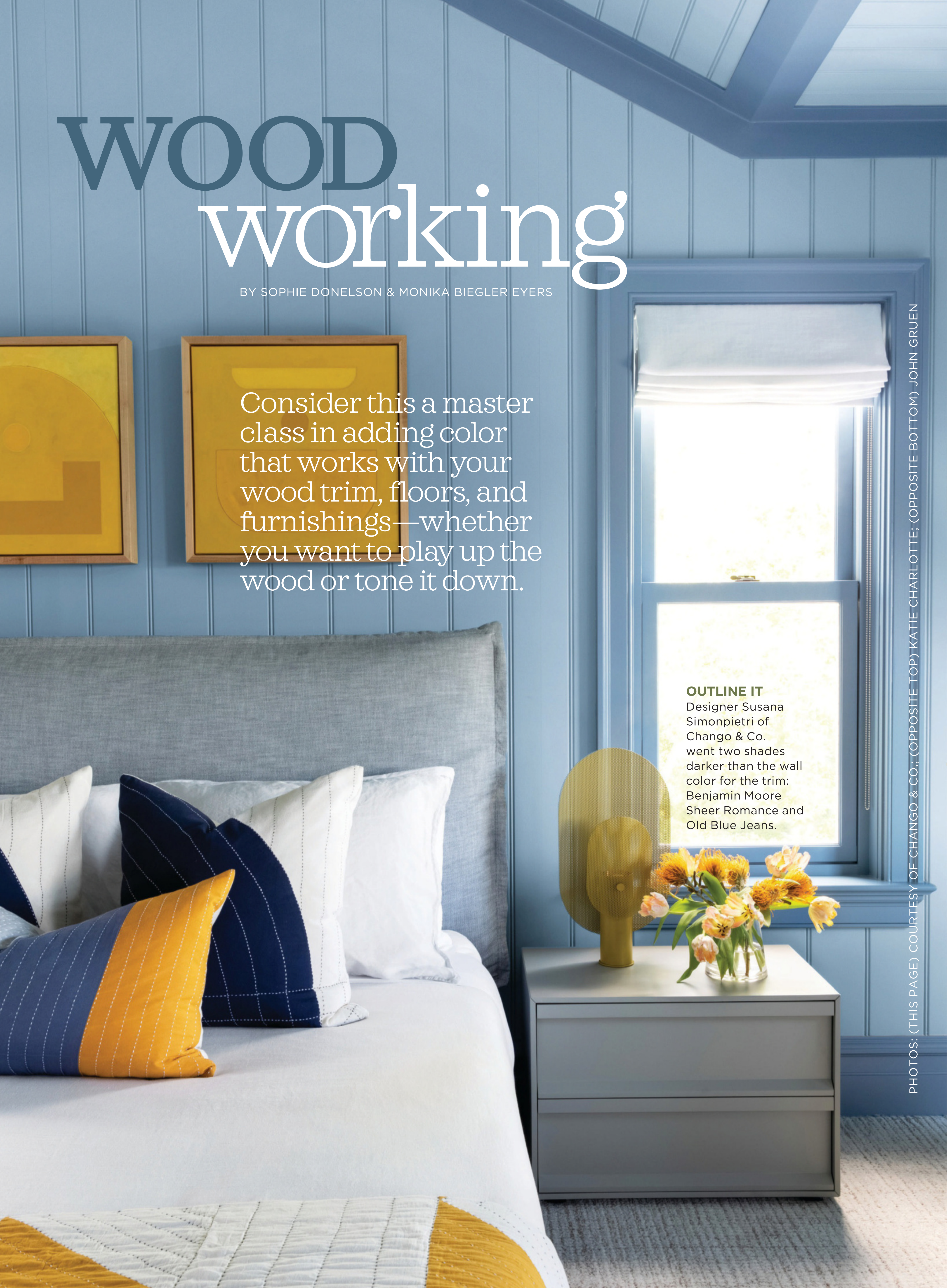
80 Scene Stealer
This California home packs plenty of personality into a small footprint.

88 Soft Focus
High style, high comfort: This remodel shows off the best of both worlds.

96 Nature Rules
A look at Rebecca Atwood's new book.

ON THE COVER

STYLIST **DORCIA KELLEY**
PHOTOGRAPHER **KELLY BLACKMON**
DESIGN **ANNA BOOTH INTERIORS**



WOOD working

BY SOPHIE DONELSON & MONIKA BIEGLER EYERS

Consider this a master class in adding color that works with your wood trim, floors, and furnishings—whether you want to play up the wood or tone it down.

OUTLINE IT Designer Susana Simonpietri of Chango & Co. went two shades darker than the wall color for the trim: Benjamin Moore Sheer Romance and Old Blue Jeans.

PHOTOS: (THIS PAGE) COURTESY OF CHANGO & CO.; (OPPOSITE TOP) KATIE CHARLOTTE; (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) JOHN GRUEN

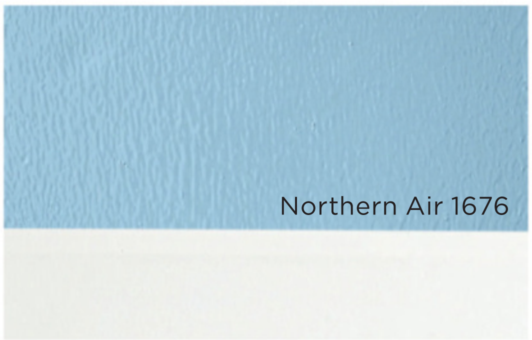
trim talk

> DON'T THINK OF PAINTED TRIM AS RUINING THE BONES. IT CAN **CELEBRATE A ROOM'S ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER,** PLAYING UP DETAILS LIKE MOLDING BY CREATING CONTRAST."
>
> —*Cortney Bishop, Cortney Bishop Design*

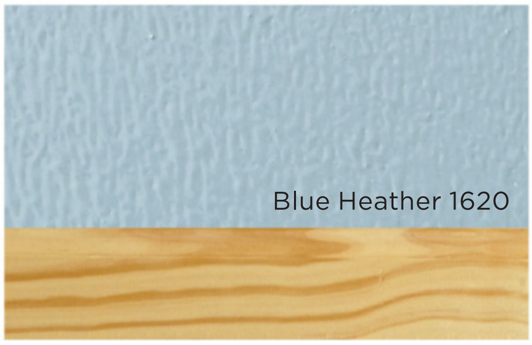
Design team Hendricks Churchill painted the window frames to carry up the cabinet color.

IDEAL DUOS

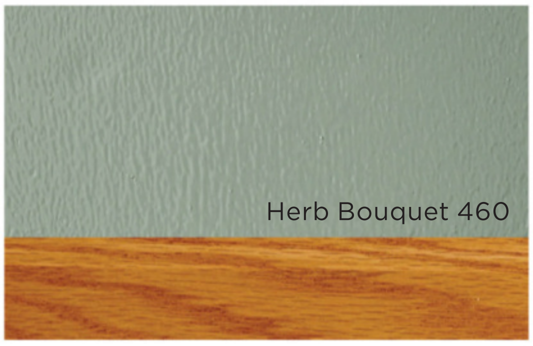
Crown molding, baseboards, and woodwork around windows read as color, so factor them in when you're selecting paint for walls. (All colors are by Benjamin Moore.)



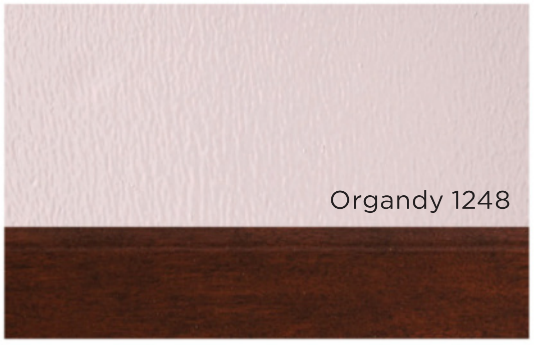
WHITE Virtually any wall color goes with white trim. The brighter the white (and the deeper the wall color), the greater the contrast.



NATURAL PINE Light-color trim like this is best with a midrange paint color. If you want more contrast, go darker. Pale shades will wash out.



REDDISH OAK The red tones in this trim limit the optimal paint colors. Shades of green, red's complementary color, pair well with reddish oak trim.



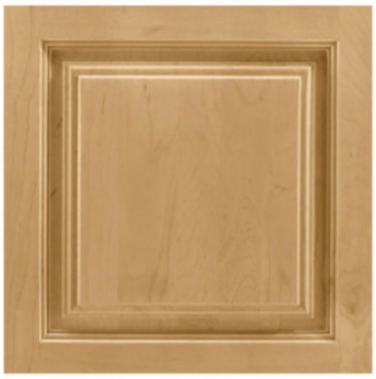
ESPRESSO This dark trim is flexible; it reads as a neutral. Its deep, rich tone makes pale colors seem more chic, less feminine.

make your match

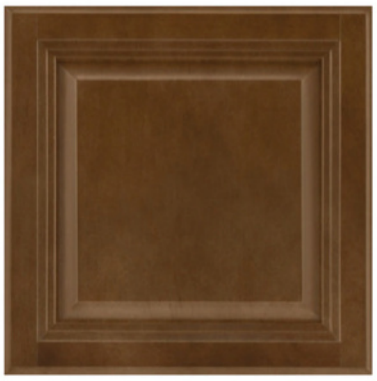
Starring role or supporting cast: Choosing the right wall color to go with wood cabinets depends on what effect you want to achieve. We asked designers to help.

START WITH THE *undertone*

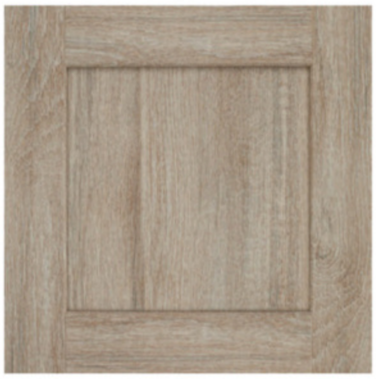
Identify what color family your cabinets fall into, then look at the color wheel to find hues that work with it. Opposites on the wheel will contrast; neighbors coordinate. Apply the chosen color to the walls or, for a subtler approach, select a neutral using the same color wheel method for its undertones, like a gray with purple in it.



YELLOW UNDERTONE
Designer Gina Sims pairs this golden wood with muted versions of yellow's complements—blue and purple—or a warm white.



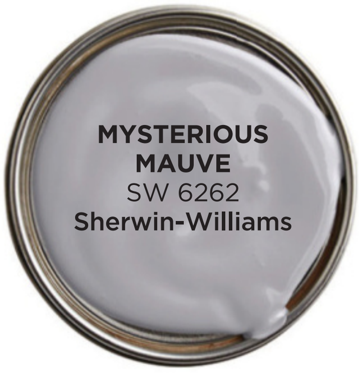
RED UNDERTONE
To balance ruddy brown, Sarah Kahn Turner of Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath goes for warm, saturated colors tempered with gray.



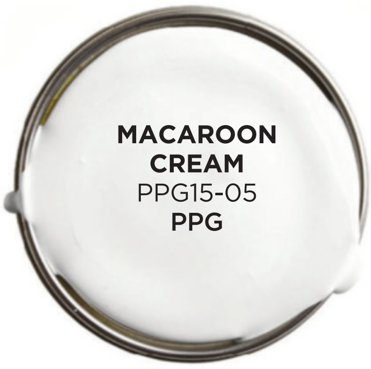
BLUE UNDERTONE
Andréa Dixon and Jen Ziemer of Fiddlehead Design Group harmonize this cool wood tone with a strong neutral or a dusty earth tone.

IF YOU WANT TO *play it up*

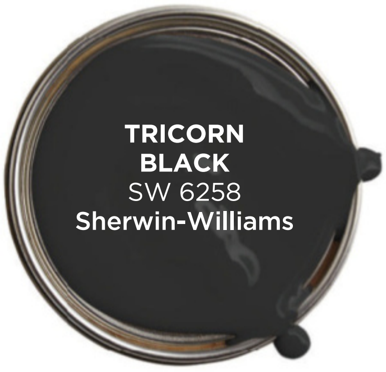
Make your cabinetry stand out with walls in a contrasting saturation level—light against dark or vice versa.



MYSTERIOUS MAUVE
SW 6262
Sherwin-Williams



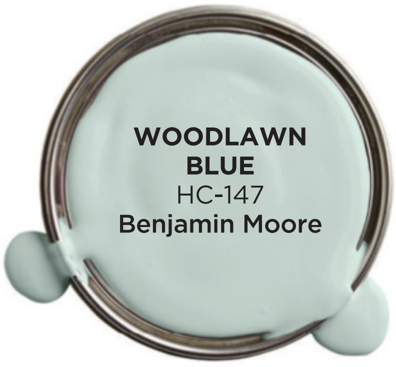
MACAROON CREAM
PPG15-05
PPG



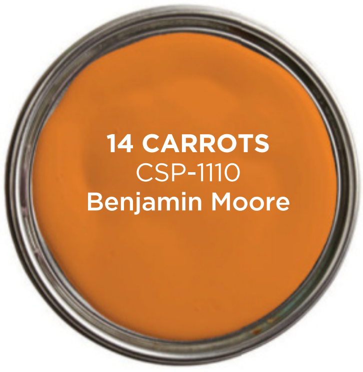
TRICORN BLACK
SW 6258
Sherwin-Williams

IF YOU WANT TO *tone it down*

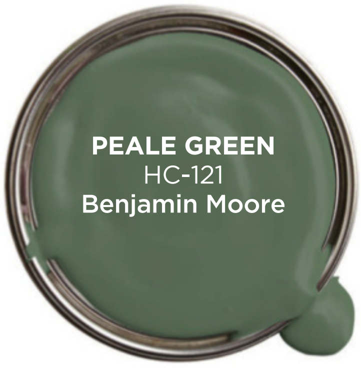
Draw attention away from cabinetry with coordinating wall colors; they distract from the wood tone.



WOODLAWN BLUE
HC-147
Benjamin Moore



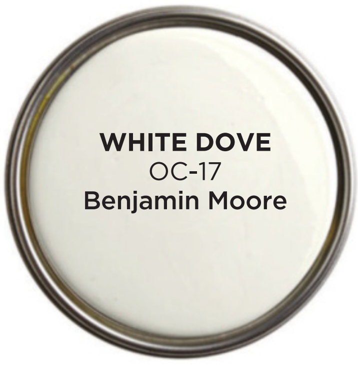
14 CARROTS
CSP-1110
Benjamin Moore



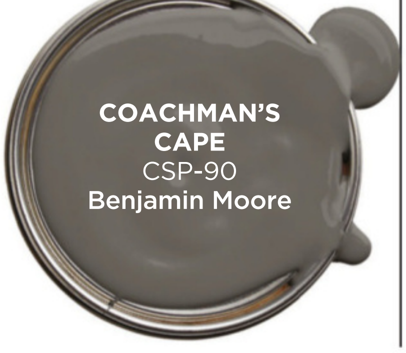
PEALE GREEN
HC-121
Benjamin Moore

IF YOU WANT TO *make it blend*

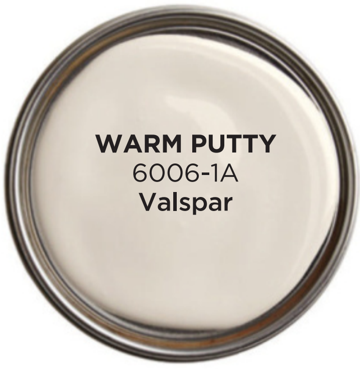
Painting walls a version of the cabinet color unifies the surfaces into a cohesive whole.



WHITE DOVE
OC-17
Benjamin Moore

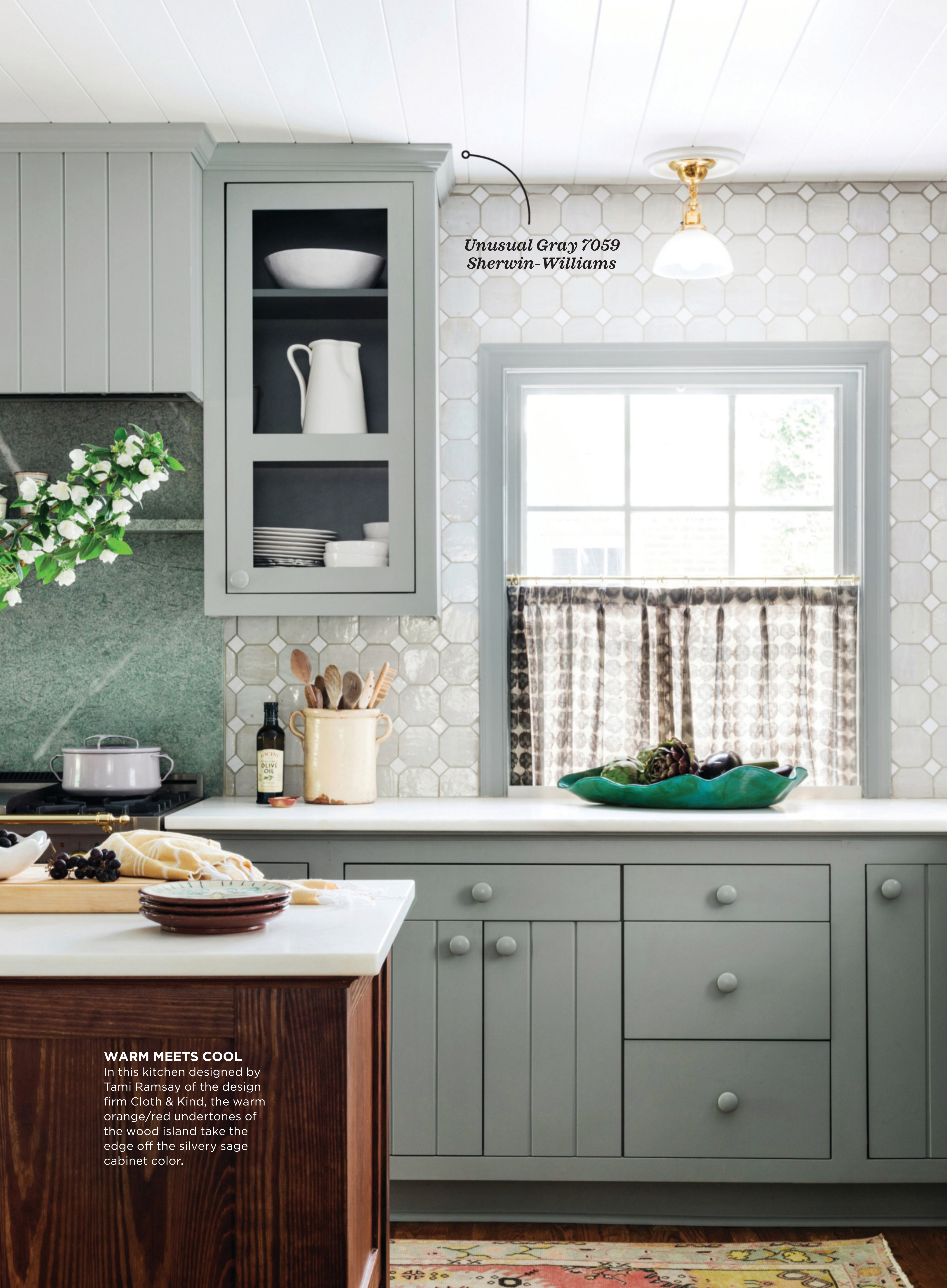


COACHMAN'S CAPE
CSP-90
Benjamin Moore



WARM PUTTY
6006-1A
Valspar

FLAT FINISH Experts usually advise painting kitchen walls a high sheen so they are easy to wipe clean. But if you love the matte look, consider Behr's Scuff Defense paint. Its stain-blocking, easy-clean technology makes it work in high-traffic areas. $41/gallon; *homedepot.com*



Unusual Gray 7059
Sherwin-Williams

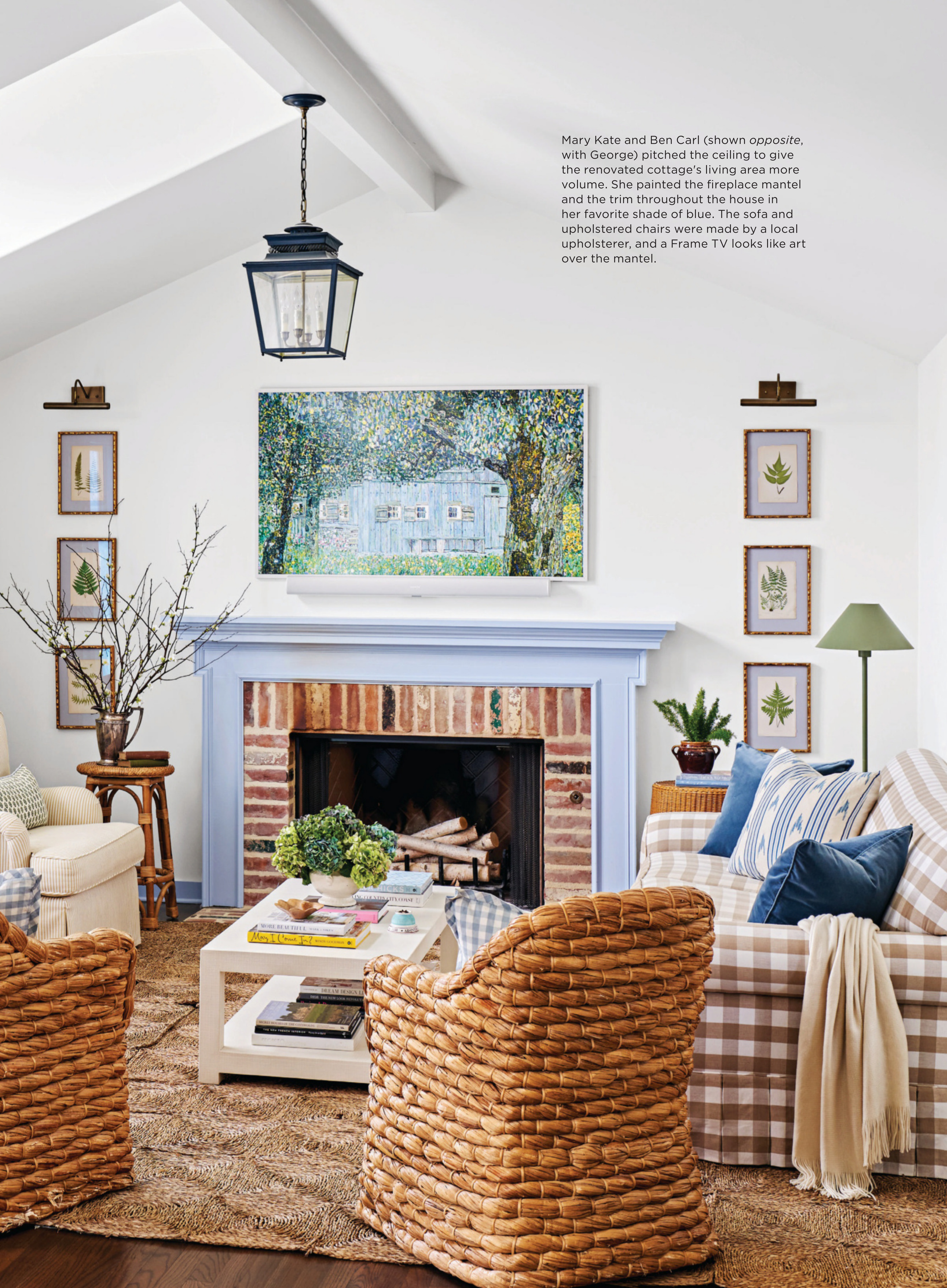
WARM MEETS COOL
In this kitchen designed by Tami Ramsay of the design firm Cloth & Kind, the warm orange/red undertones of the wood island take the edge off the silvery sage cabinet color.

BLUE-SKY THINKING

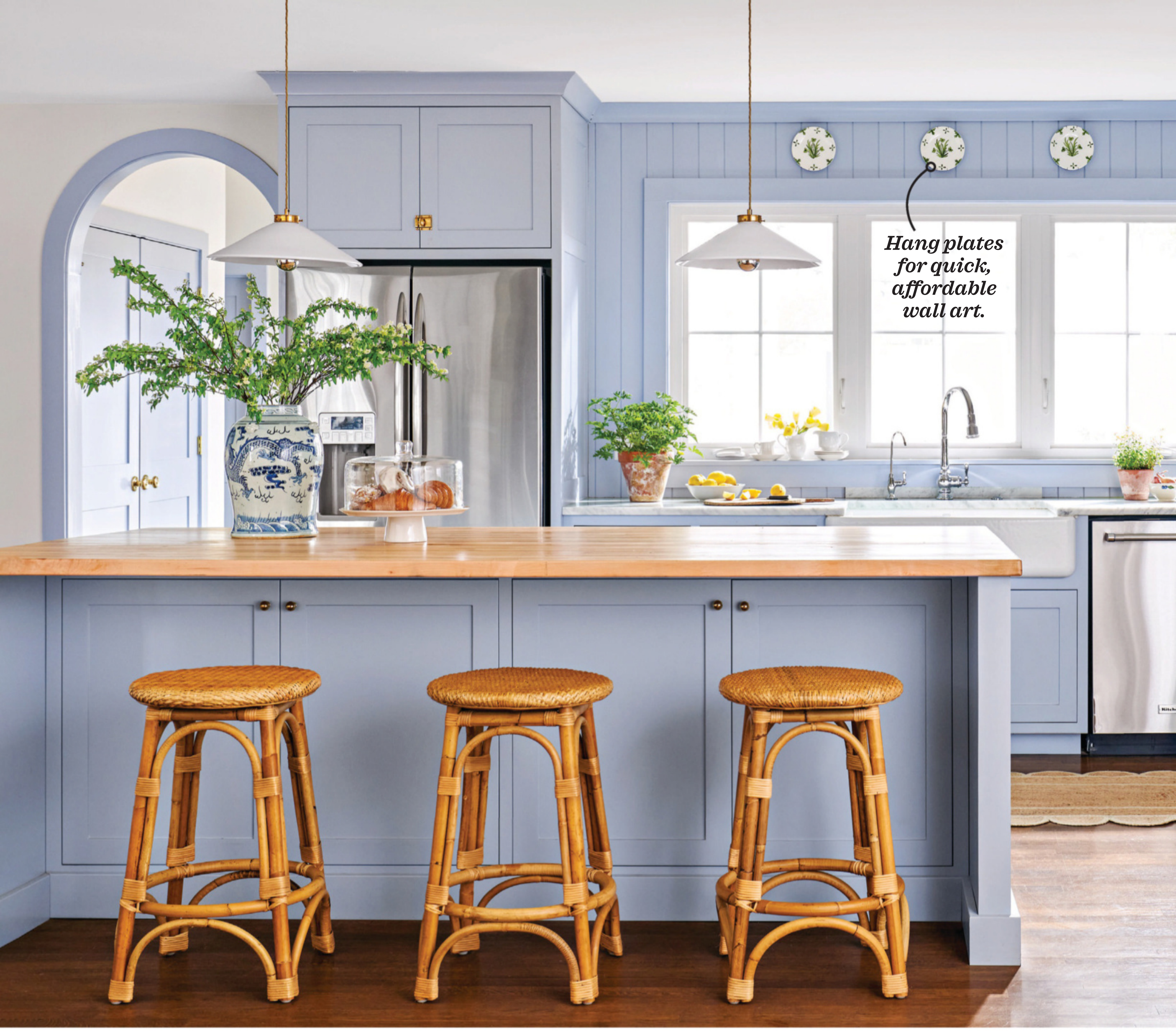
A clever use of space, plenty of hometown support, and gallons of blue paint made it possible for this young couple to remake a little cottage into their dream home.

WRITER **KATHY BARNES** PHOTOGRAPHER **NATHAN SCHRODER**
STYLIST **JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM**

A pro made the drapes with inexpensive fabric ($5 a yard) found on Etsy.



Mary Kate and Ben Carl (shown *opposite*, with George) pitched the ceiling to give the renovated cottage's living area more volume. She painted the fireplace mantel and the trim throughout the house in her favorite shade of blue. The sofa and upholstered chairs were made by a local upholsterer, and a Frame TV looks like art over the mantel.



Hang plates for quick, affordable wall art.

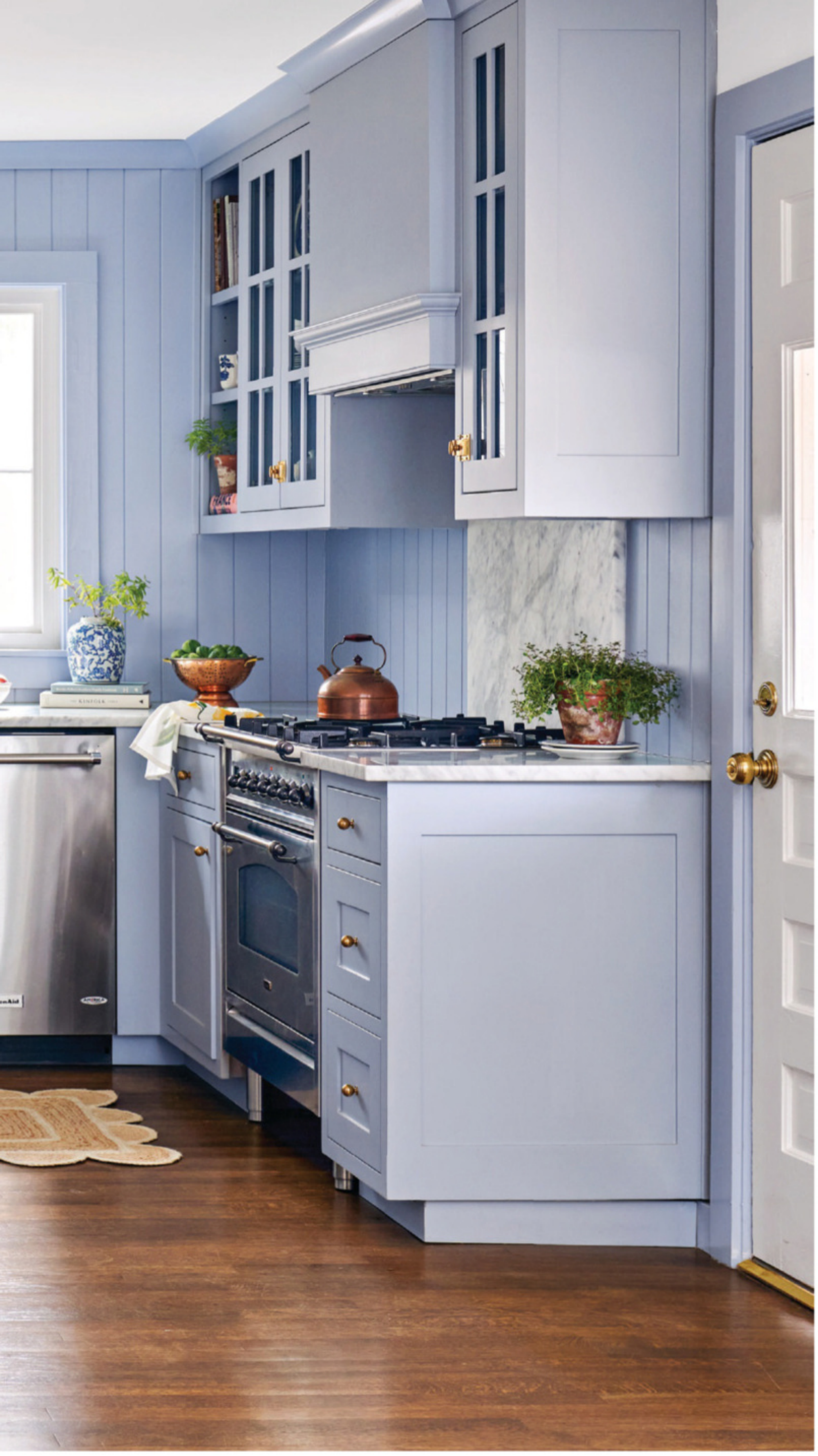
As young marrieds, Mary Kate and Ben Carl wanted a family and hoped to settle in Mary Kate's hometown in the Texas Hill Country to be close to family and old friends. As luck would have it, one of those friends, a real estate agent and builder, was key to finding their first home, an 800-square-foot cottage in Boerne that wasn't yet on the market. They hired an architect to rethink the floor plan, add dormer windows on the front, and plan an addition that would double its size.

Mary Kate used her experience as an interior designer to choose building materials like butcher block and classic subway tile that fit her budget so she could splurge in some places. In the kitchen, for example, she opted for paneling instead of tile for the backsplash but spent money on Carrara marble counters. "One moment can make a room," she says.

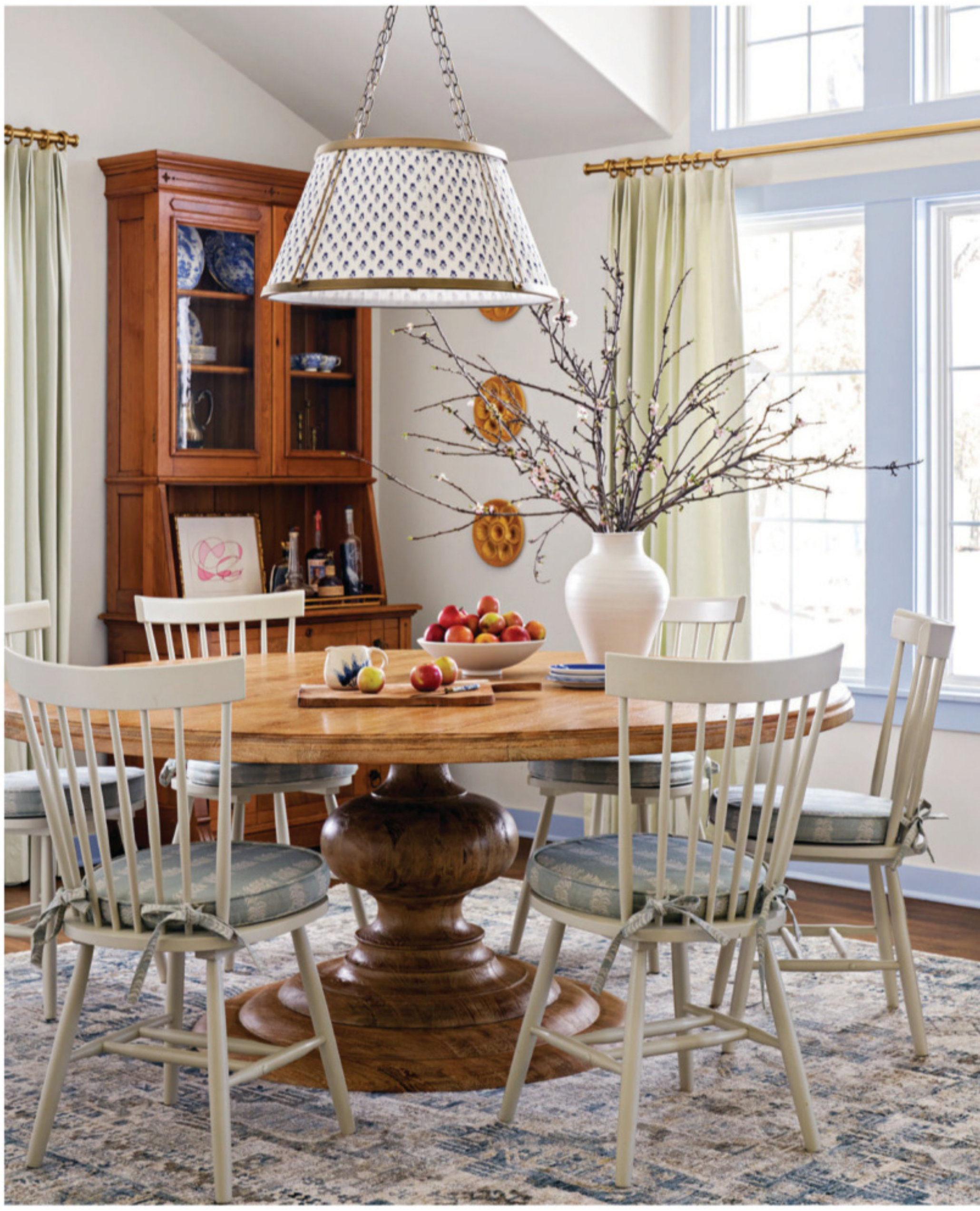
After nine months of construction, the couple moved in and began layering their favorite things, like family heirlooms from Ben's grandmother, lamps and decorative plates from Round Top Antiques Fair, and comfortable upholstered seating.

Inspired by English design and a favorite blue color from Farrow & Ball (Parma Gray), Mary Kate custom-created a similar powdery gray-blue to use throughout the house on the trim, fireplace mantel, and kitchen cabinets. She used the same color on the exterior, but at 50 percent saturation. "This was my first time making decisions on my own place," she says. "White would have been safe, but to me blue is a neutral color. I thought, *You can never have too much blue.*"

Interior Design: *Mary Kate Carl, Katie Davis Design*

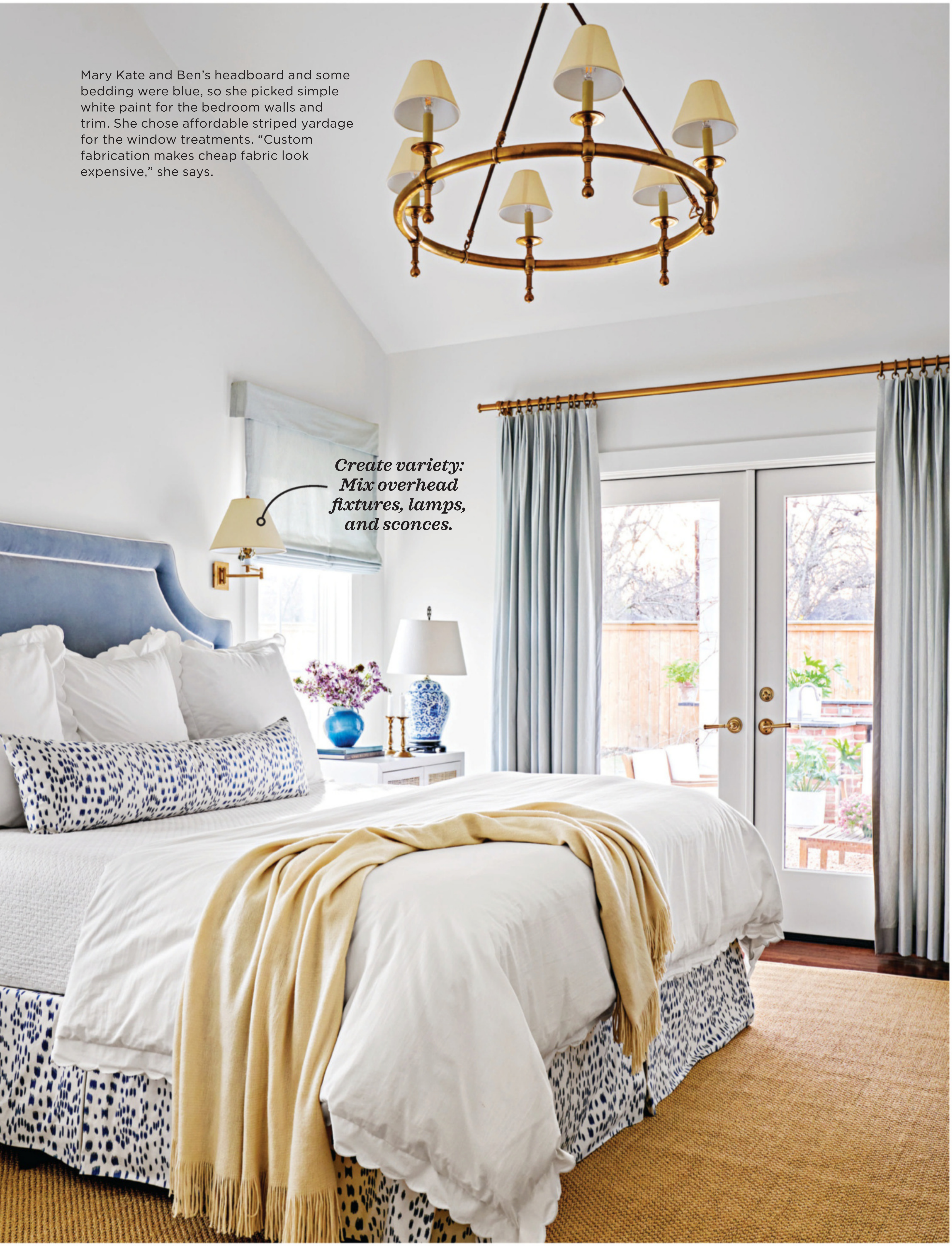


> “I LOVE THE CONCEPT OF A SMALLER HOME WITH SHARED SPACES AND HOW IT FORCES YOU TO LIVE CLOSELY.”
>
> *—homeowner Mary Kate Carl*



FRANCE
THE COOKBOOK

ABOVE LEFT: The vertical lines of the painted paneling draw the eye up and give the kitchen a sense of spaciousness. Neutrals—the sealed butcher-block counter on the island and marble perimeter counters—complement the scheme. **LEFT:** Using painted paneling instead of tile for the backsplash left enough room in the budget to splurge on marble for countertops and behind the range. The paneling climbs the wall behind shelves and glass-front upper cabinets for continuity. **ABOVE:** The dining room is bathed in light thanks, in part, to the addition of dormer windows on the home’s front facade. A hefty pedestal dining table anchors the room and its round shape can comfortably host a crowd.



Mary Kate and Ben's headboard and some bedding were blue, so she picked simple white paint for the bedroom walls and trim. She chose affordable striped yardage for the window treatments. "Custom fabrication makes cheap fabric look expensive," she says.

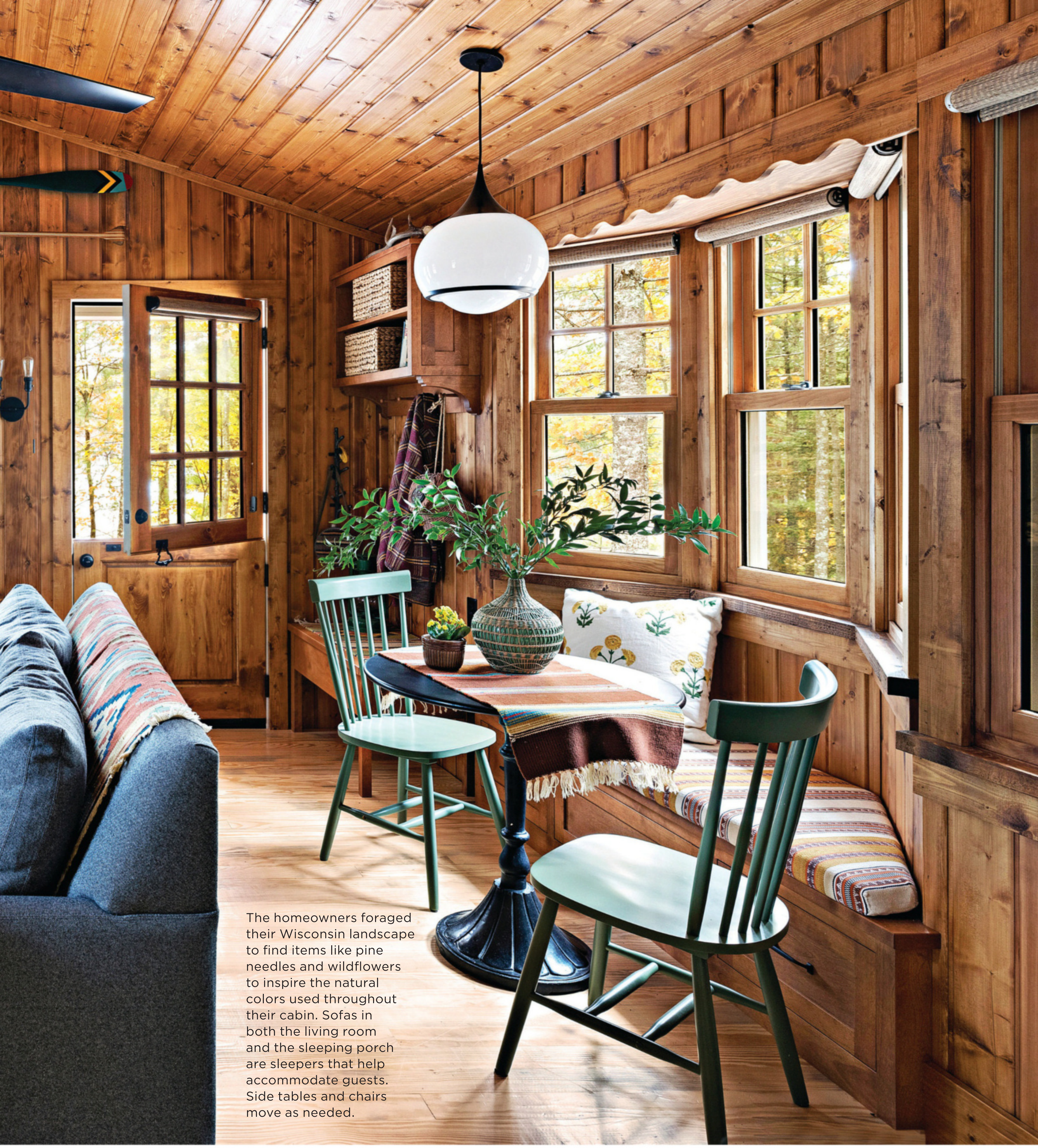
Create variety: Mix overhead fixtures, lamps, and sconces.

FAMILY ROOM

TOP LEFT: The wallpapered bathroom accommodates both guests and kids. Mary Kate says she wanted to make it look like a "fun powder room." **TOP RIGHT:** The couple repurposed the garage into an office. Cinder block walls remain, but new checkered floor tile and woven shades elevate the space. Mary Kate works remotely for Katie Davis Design, an interior design firm in Houston. She's found a client base in Texas Hill Country. **BOTTOM LEFT:** George's nursery has the same mix of soft blue, white, and natural woven grass as other rooms. The blue-and-white check feels perfectly suited to the baby. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mary Kate's color palette pivots to green in the laundry, where cane cabinet door inserts keep stored items out of view.

OPPOSITE: The Carls use the outdoor dining space for entertaining, candlelight dinners on at-home date nights, and Saturday lunches. The freestanding pergola gives relief from the sun. Loose pea gravel is easy to maintain and chokes out weeds. **ABOVE:** Ben focused on transforming the backyard into another "room" for entertaining, adding a patio, firepit, and putting green. Friends and family gather to watch golf tournaments and college football games on the outdoor television. **LEFT:** Mary Kate worked with an architect to add symmetrical dormers to the front of the cottage. "The dormers make the living area feel light and airy. We face north, so we have a nice glow without the intense heat from the sunlight," she says.

HAPPY LITTLE CAMPER



The homeowners foraged their Wisconsin landscape to find items like pine needles and wildflowers to inspire the natural colors used throughout their cabin. Sofas in both the living room and the sleeping porch are sleepers that help accommodate guests. Side tables and chairs move as needed.

A 1930s fish camp cabin gets a second life, reprising its most lovable characteristics—this time with modern updates built to last.

WRITER & PRODUCER **KELLY RYAN KEGANS** PHOTOGRAPHER **SPACECRAFTING**

As much as the homeowners treasure summers at their Wisconsin cabin, they find something magical in autumn's arrival in the Northwoods. Crisp temperatures cue the kaleidoscope of crimson, gold, and fiery orange foliage that hugs the shoreline, mirrored in the still waters of nearby Lake Owen, where locals set off for evening boat cruises after dinner.

"It's so beautiful in the fall," one of the homeowners says of their remote spot. "We spend as much time as we can up there with our family outdoors—hiking trails, sitting around a bonfire, eating at the big picnic table. We're outside all season until the snow starts to fall."

The retired couple, who live in the Twin Cities, are regular hosts to their three grown children, a grandchild, and as many as 30 extended family members who visit throughout the year. Luring family to the lake was the primary reason they bought the 1930s resort and fish camp long ago, and over the past eight years, they've been fixing up the property.

Most recently, the couple rebuilt this pint-size guest cottage, working with the same interior design and architecture firms who helped them with the previous renovations on the main cabin. At a little more than 600 square feet, the cottage can sleep two families (and up to six people) with built-in privacy considerations. "Primarily, this satellite cabin is for our kids, because we have our spot in the main cabin," the owner says.

The initial plan was to renovate, but once the work began, they discovered that the structure had been too badly damaged by what the owner describes as "various wildlife visitors." Architectural designer Sara Whicher

> “IT’S LIKE A SLUMBER PARTY FOR GUESTS.”
>
> —*interior designer Lucy Penfield*

OPPOSITE: Up a meandering path from a Wisconsin lake, this guest cabin blends into the woods with help from its green shingle roof and custom dark brown exterior stain. **ABOVE LEFT:** Fieldstone common to the area gives the new fireplace local character. **LEFT:** The cozy living room nook tucks into a windowed bay—its bistro table is just big enough for coffee or cocktails with a couple of guests. **ABOVE:** Most meals are cooked outside on the grill, so the kitchenette is small but functional and includes a gas range, an undercounter refrigerator, and a sink. The cabinet color (Farrow & Ball Dayroom Yellow) adds a ray of sunshine to the knotty pine interior.

says the decision was made to tear the whole thing down.

Although the design team and the couple were heartbroken that they suddenly had to rebuild from the foundation up, they stayed true to the cottage's character, with a few upgrades to ensure every nook and cranny has practical function. Original features are on repeat, including knotty pine walls, scallop wood trim framing the bay window in the breakfast area, and the fireplace made with Wisconsin fieldstone. Furnishings—a mix of new and old—also have a throwback vibe. "We wanted to bring back those nostalgic pieces so it feels like yesterday but lives like today," interior designer Lucy Penfield says. "We splurged in some places, like the backsplash tile, but we wanted to be responsible budgetwise and not overgild this sweet gem."

Humble and efficient, the little hideaway now has nothing to hide. "The couple didn't want to have to tell you the rules of the cabin. When you walk in, you know where to put your bags, how to get a cup of coffee or make a cocktail and cook a hamburger," Whicher says. "You are able to open the door and be right at home."

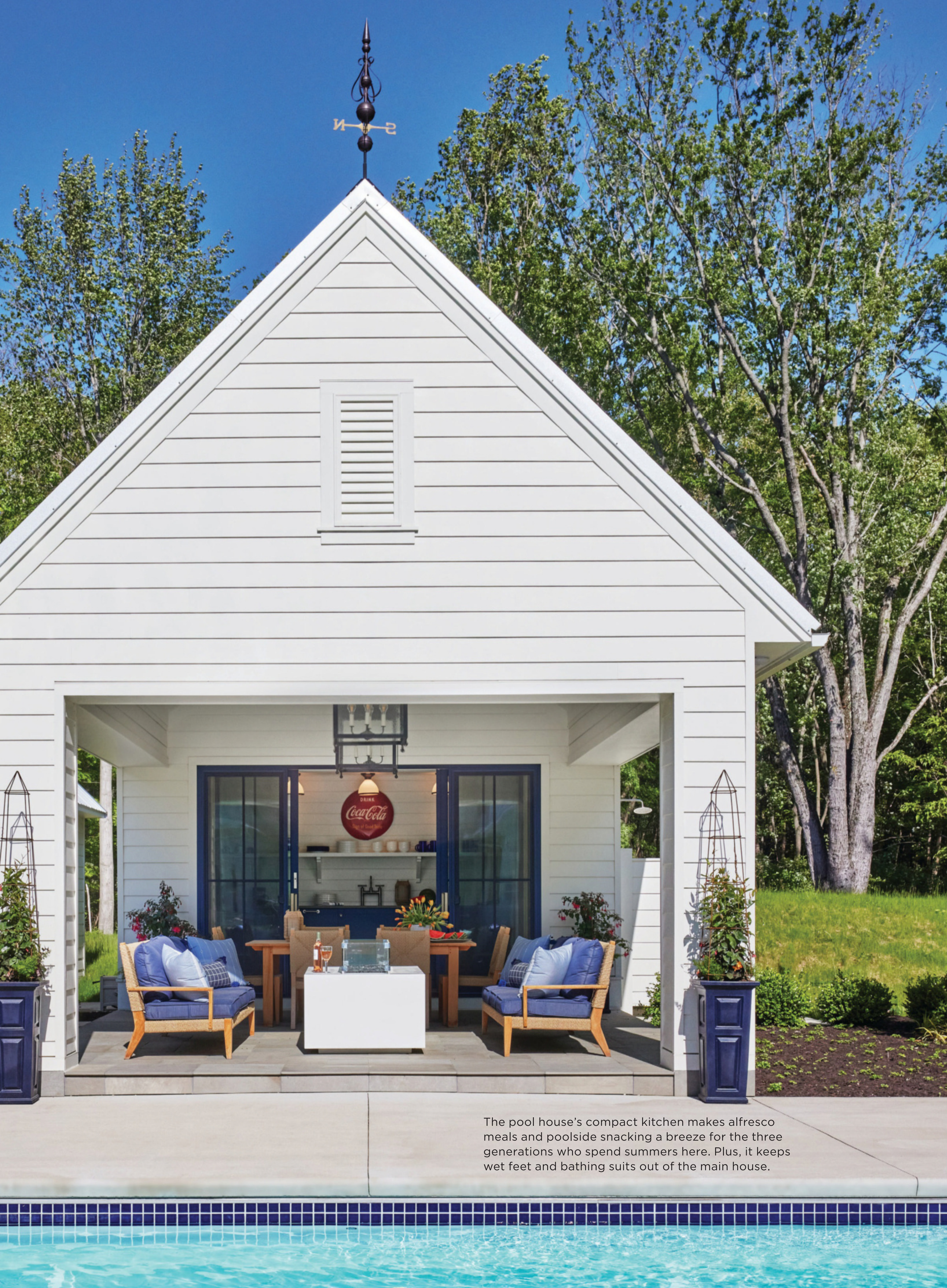
Interior Design: *Lucy Penfield, Lucy Interiors*
Architectural Design: *Sara Whicher, Chisel Architecture*

FAR LEFT & LEFT: The 170-square-foot sleeping porch provides another place for catnaps and additional overnight guests, with separate access through the door to the deck. Limewashed plank walls and a pale blue ceiling (Benjamin Moore Brittany Blue) set off the porch and brighten the look. Upholstered in performance fabric, the comfy sofa is flanked by tables made of rattan and wicker, both natural materials that age well in a light-filled room. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The cabin's only bedroom has built-in storage drawers and open shelves in lieu of a closet. A sliding door with a curtain offers privacy between the bedroom and sleeping porch. Layers of quilts, vintage paint-by-numbers, and old landscape paintings channel the cabin's humble beginnings. "There are a lot of treasures throughout," interior designer Lucy Penfield (on Instagram @lucyinteriordesign) says. **BELOW LEFT & BELOW:** The bathroom mirror can slide back and forth in front of the window. "That peekaboo mirror is part of the nostalgia and magic of this sweet guest cabin," Penfield says. The green vanity (painted Benjamin Moore Alligator Alley) complements the tile colors. Wall hooks can hold a lot of wet towels, so they became an easy solution for the space.

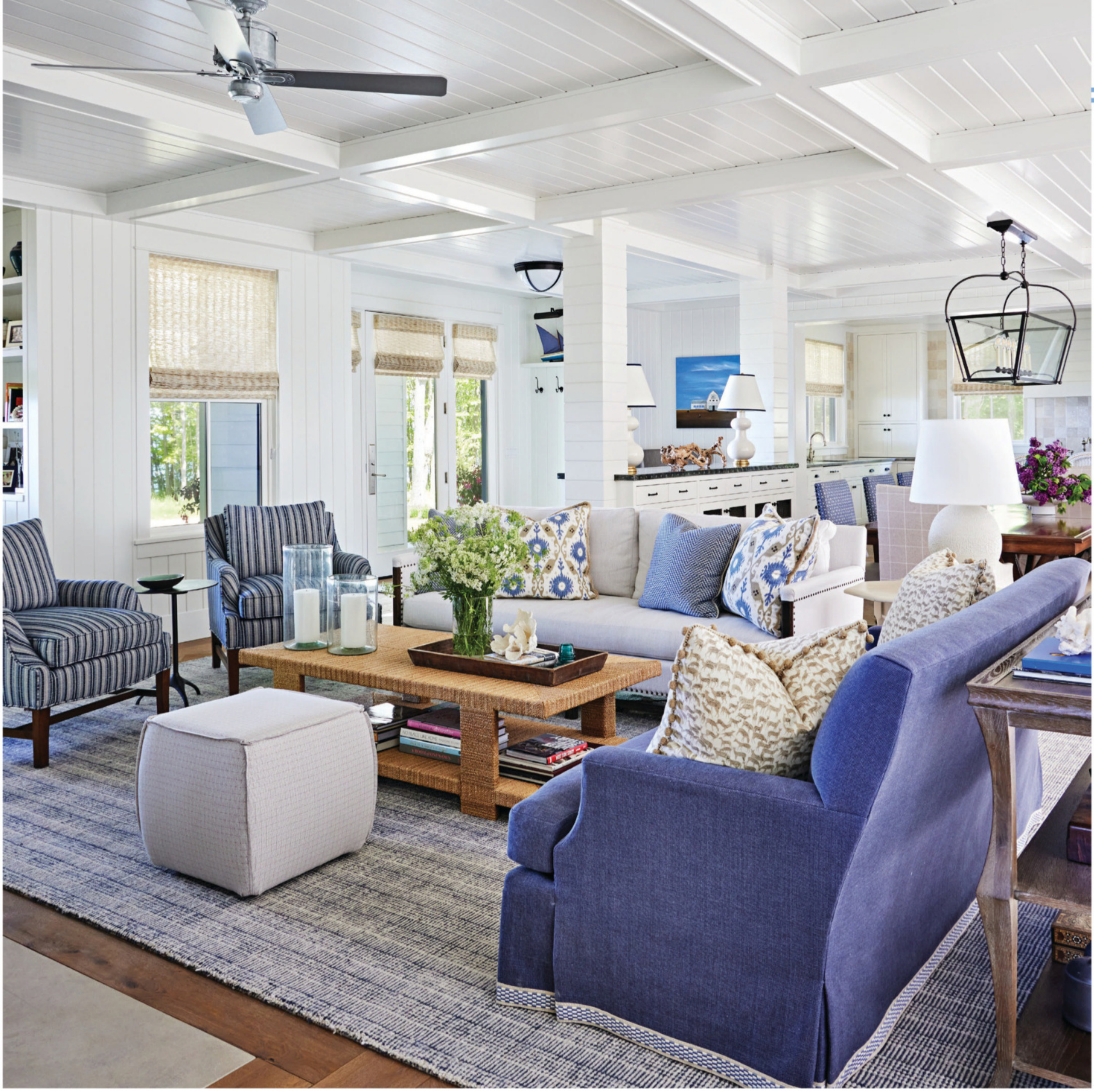
building on MEMORIES

A new lakeside cottage in Glenn, Michigan, pays homage to family history while embracing modern living.

WRITER **FRED ALBERT** PHOTOGRAPHER **WERNER STRAUBE**
PRODUCER **HILARY ROSE**



The pool house's compact kitchen makes alfresco meals and poolside snacking a breeze for the three generations who spend summers here. Plus, it keeps wet feet and bathing suits out of the main house.



Cheerful decor and casual comfort make this Lake Michigan cottage a welcoming spot to savor lazy summer days by the shore. But for owners Cheryl and David, it's also a treasured link to family history.

More than a century ago, Cheryl's great-grandfather purchased a small resort on an acreage as a summer destination. "Sort of like a Catskills resort—but not that nice," jokes Cheryl, who spent childhood weekends here playing softball, picking blueberries, and clambering down cliffs to the beach below.

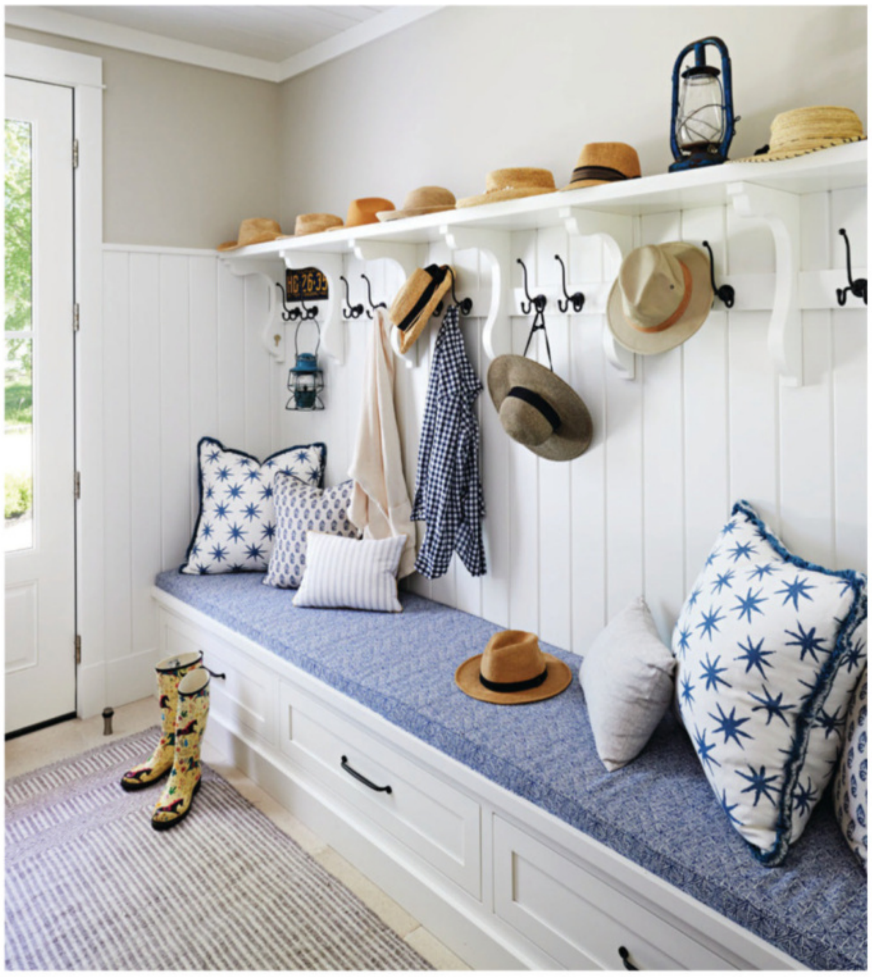
Decades after the last guest checked out, she acquired one of the parcels and spent the next 35 years dreaming about building a home there. About five years ago, she discovered that James Dolenc and Tom Riker of the Chicago interiors firm James Thomas owned a place around the corner. Enchanted by their sense of style (and their proximity), Cheryl and David asked them to oversee the design of their long-dreamed-of summer home.

Working with architect Rob Sears, the designers emphasized the cottage aesthetic with tongue-and-groove paneling, beamed ceilings, and stair balusters shaped like oars, but kept the floor plan open to accommodate hosting a crowd—including five grandchildren. Drawers tucked under staircases and window seats help keep clutter at bay, while performance fabrics make cleanup easy. "Cheryl really pushed to make it kid-friendly," David says.

The designers leaned into a blue-and-white palette but were careful to vary the shades and introduce plenty of pattern to avoid nautical overload. Even the exterior window frames are blue, just as they were at Cheryl's

> “I WANTED IT TO BE FUN AND YOUTHFUL, BUT TO ALSO REFLECT LAKE LIVING.”
>
> —*designer Tom Riker*

OPPOSITE: The living room’s coffered, tongue-and-groove ceiling helps delineate spaces within the open floor plan. To enhance the informality, designer Tom Riker combined mismatched sofas; he covered them in performance fabrics for extra durability. The grouping is anchored by a wool area rug, which was fashioned from a piece of broadloom. **TOP:** The staircase to the children’s wing features oar-shaped balusters. **LEFT:** Dining side chairs pair durable leather seats with printed linen backs that were laminated to prevent staining. “We love using two different fabrics. I think it looks more charming,” Riker says. The chandelier is large in scale but doesn’t obstruct views. **ABOVE:** Cozy gathering spaces abound, like this window seat with a view of Lake Michigan.

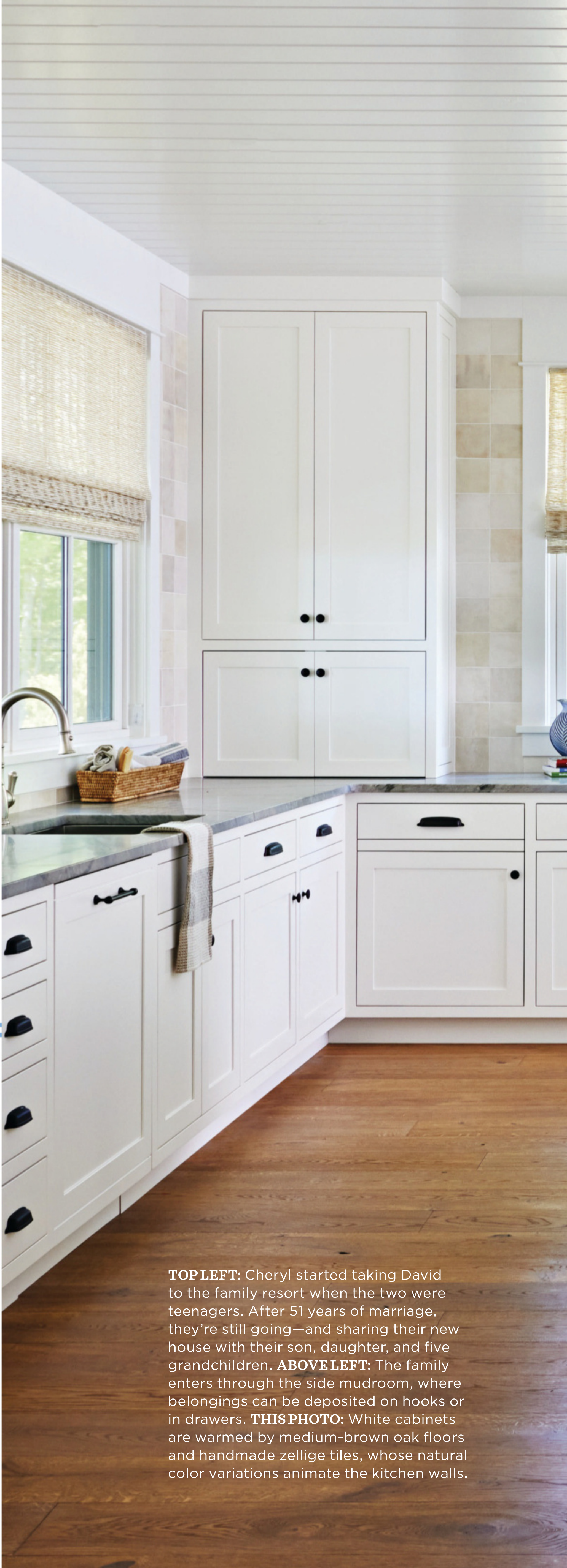


nearby grandmother's house where she spent summers.

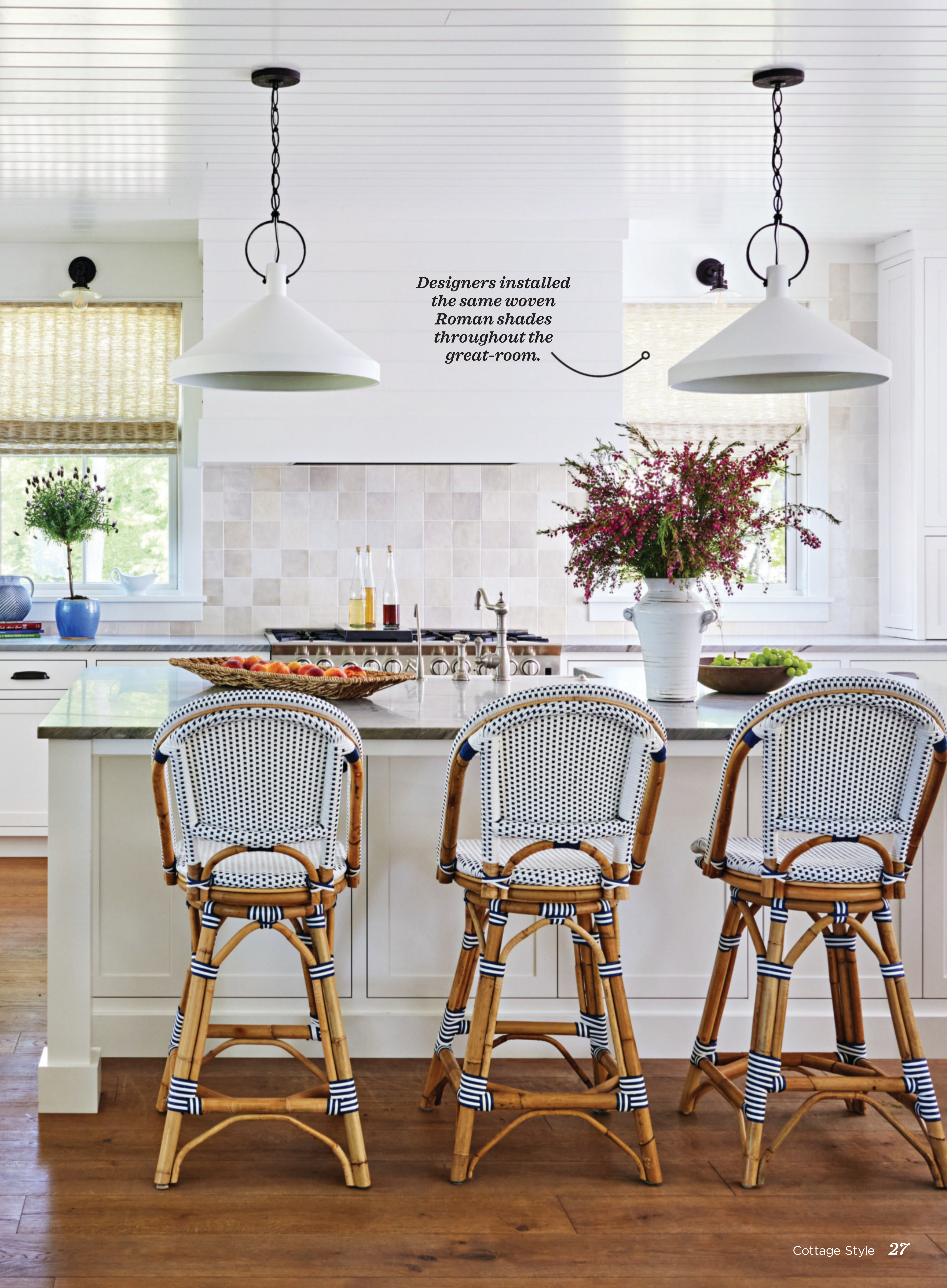
New furnishings mingle with family heirlooms and retro touches, like an arrangement of old tractor seats on a stair landing and a powder room sink that resembles an old washtub—the kind Cheryl and her sister bathed in growing up. "We tried to infuse some pieces that looked like they had some history, so everything didn't feel like it was brand-spanking new," Riker says.

Most importantly, Cheryl's directive to the designers was achieved. "We wanted a home that our family will enjoy for generations," she remembers telling them. As long as there are beaches to explore, berries to pick, and this cozy retreat to come home to, it's a good bet they will.

Interior Design: *James Dolenc, Tom Riker; James Thomas*
Architect: *Rob Sears, Sears Architects*

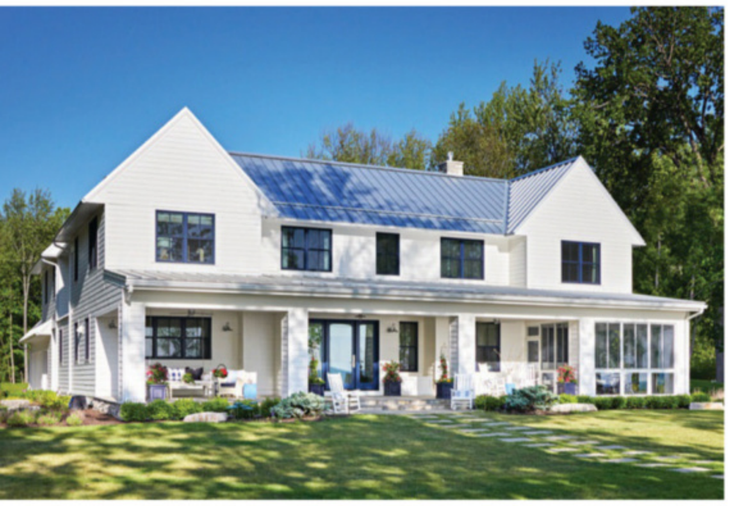


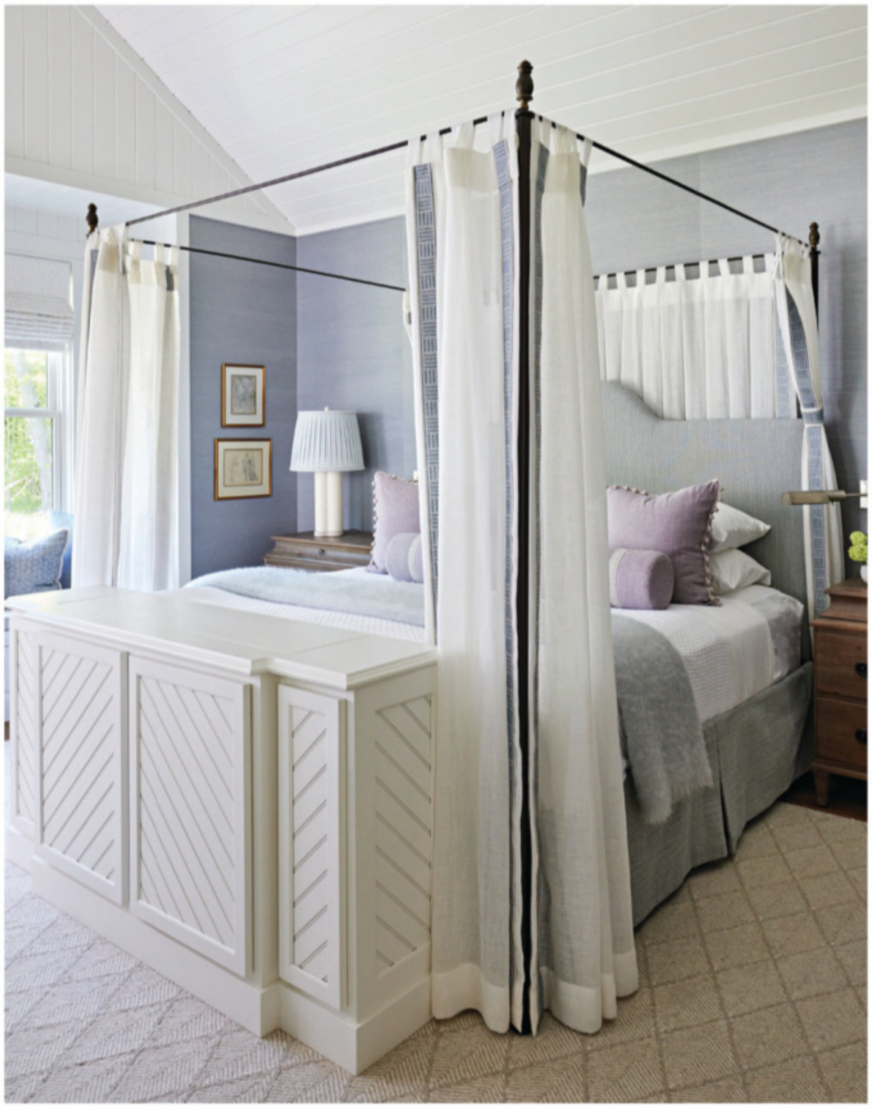
TOP LEFT: Cheryl started taking David to the family resort when the two were teenagers. After 51 years of marriage, they're still going—and sharing their new house with their son, daughter, and five grandchildren. **ABOVE LEFT:** The family enters through the side mudroom, where belongings can be deposited on hooks or in drawers. **THIS PHOTO:** White cabinets are warmed by medium-brown oak floors and handmade zellige tiles, whose natural color variations animate the kitchen walls.

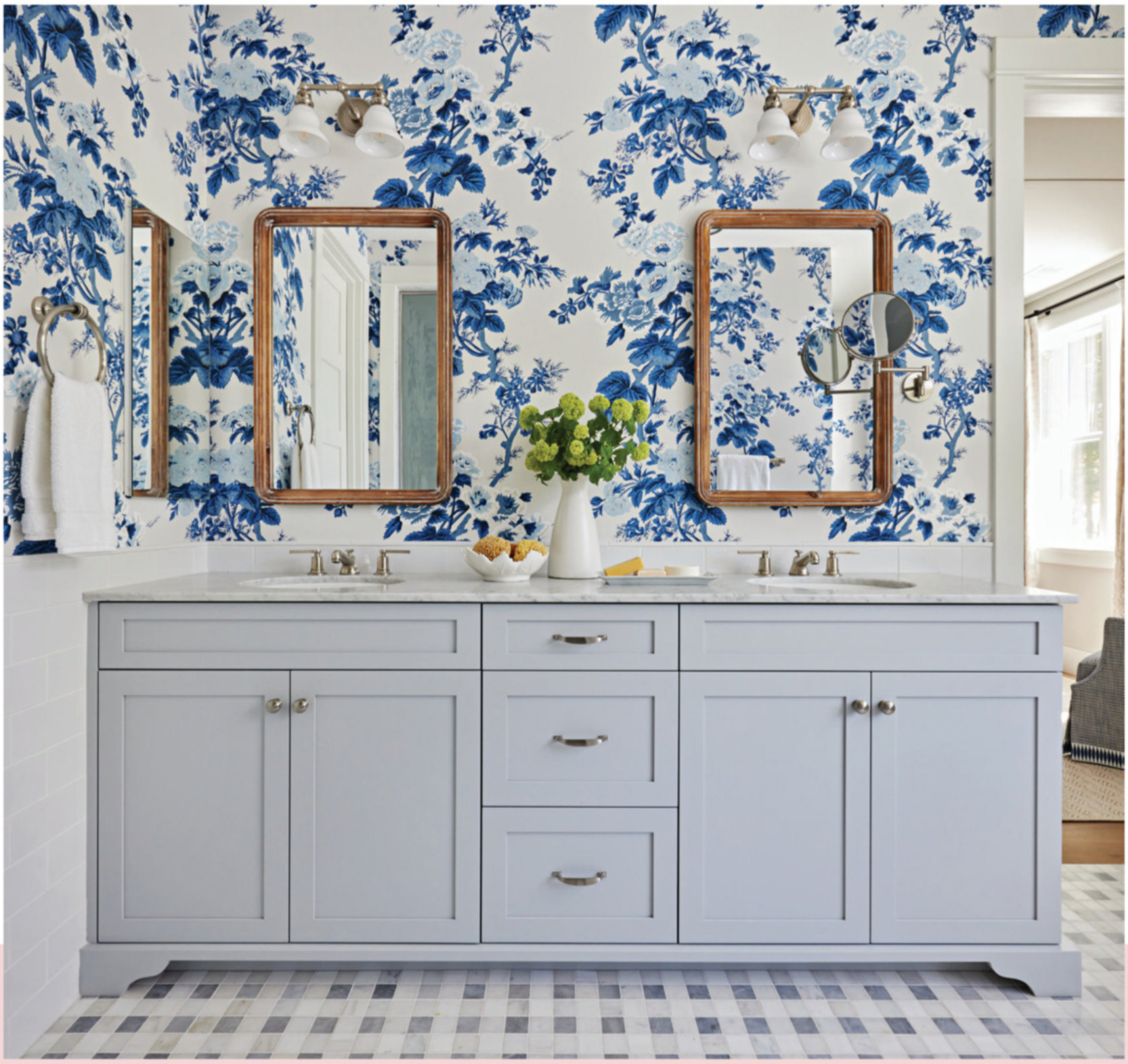


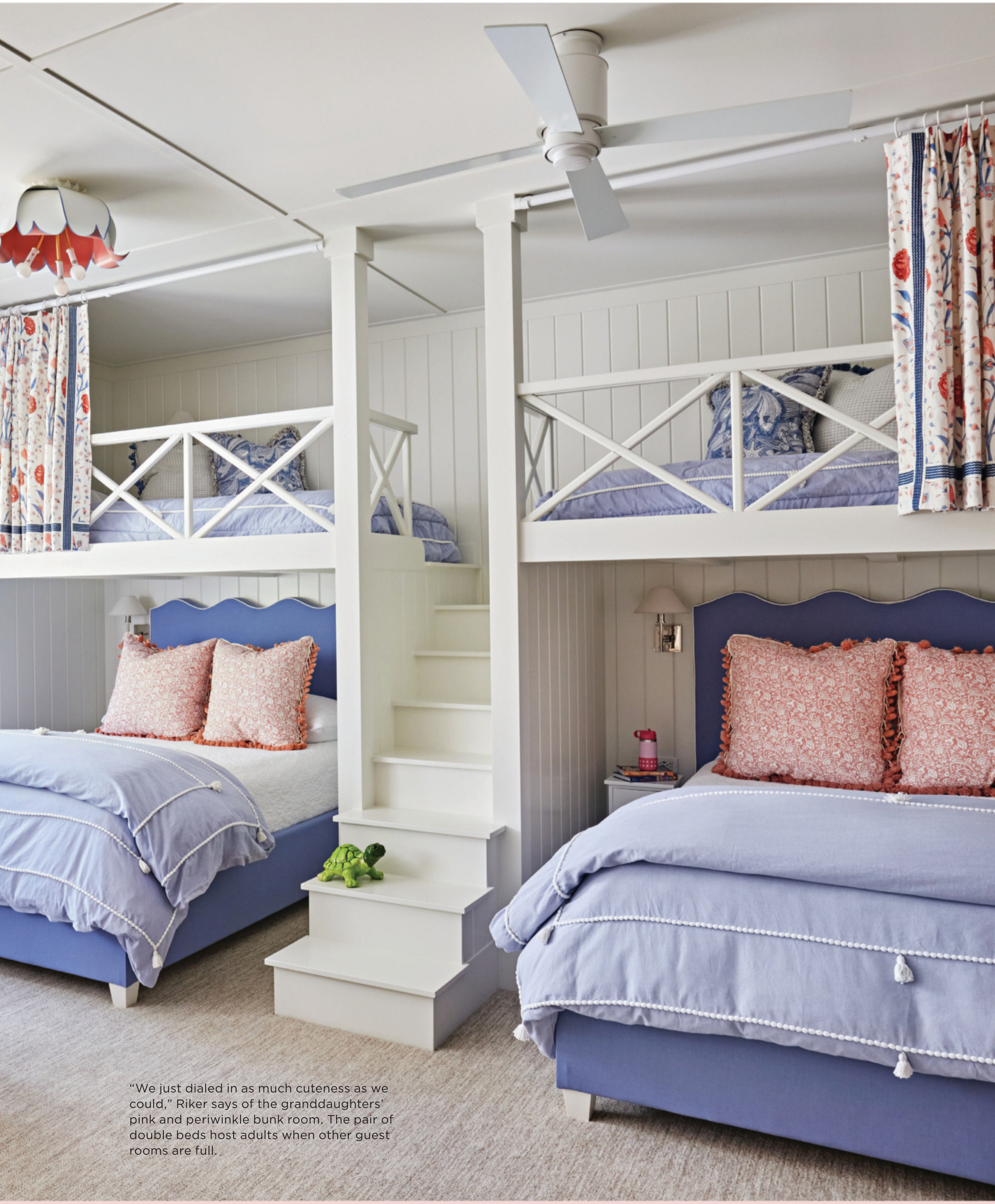
Designers installed the same woven Roman shades throughout the great-room.

BELOW: “We wanted a big front porch,” says Cheryl, who also requested the standing-seam metal roof and blue window frames. **RIGHT:** In the primary bedroom, walls are covered with lavender-gray grass cloth and a four-poster bed is dressed with linen sheers. The cabinet at the foot of the bed conceals a pop-up TV. **BOTTOM:** The owners’ daughter-in-law loved this Schumacher floral, so Riker used it on the walls of the en suite bathroom that accompanies the guest room where she usually sleeps.







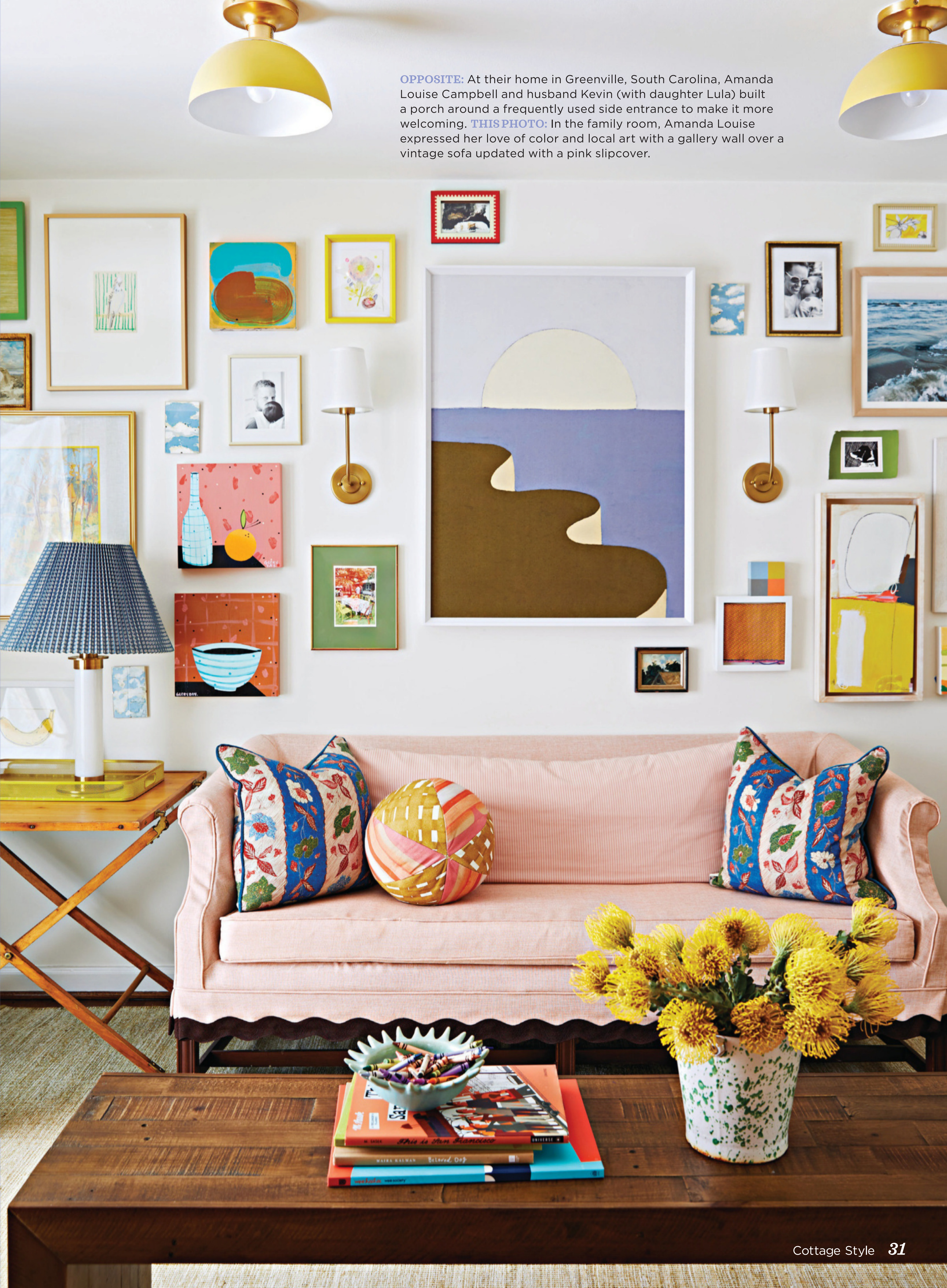


"We just dialed in as much cuteness as we could," Riker says of the granddaughters' pink and periwinkle bunk room. The pair of double beds host adults when other guest rooms are full.

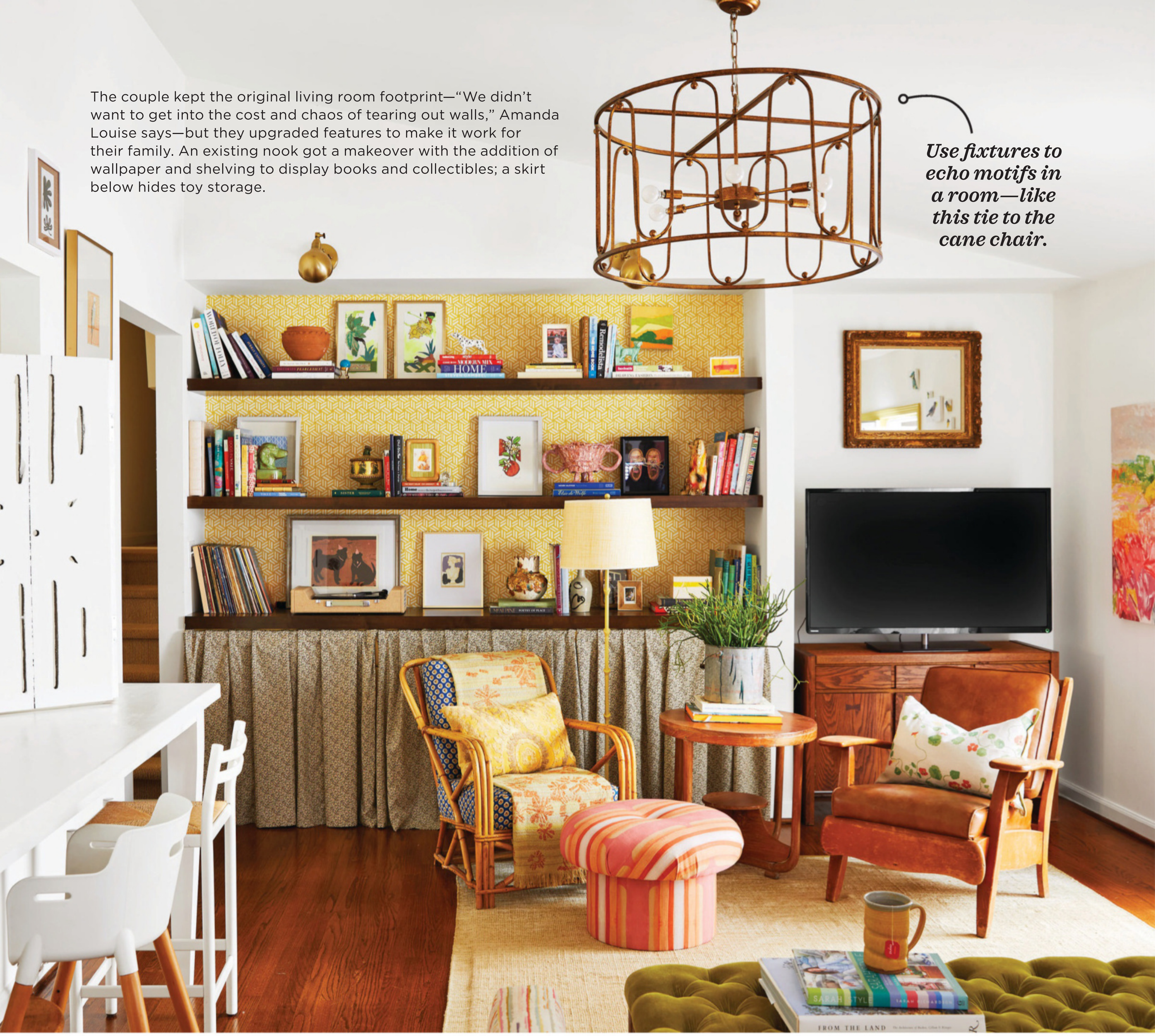
taking it EASY

Sometimes with a reno, slow and steady wins the race—as proved by this home where cheerful personal touches abound.

WRITER **MIRANDA CROWELL** PHOTOGRAPHER **BRIE WILLIAMS**
PRODUCER **ANDREA NORDSTROM CAUGHEY**



OPPOSITE: At their home in Greenville, South Carolina, Amanda Louise Campbell and husband Kevin (with daughter Lula) built a porch around a frequently used side entrance to make it more welcoming. **THIS PHOTO:** In the family room, Amanda Louise expressed her love of color and local art with a gallery wall over a vintage sofa updated with a pink slipcover.



The couple kept the original living room footprint—"We didn't want to get into the cost and chaos of tearing out walls," Amanda Louise says—but they upgraded features to make it work for their family. An existing nook got a makeover with the addition of wallpaper and shelving to display books and collectibles; a skirt below hides toy storage.

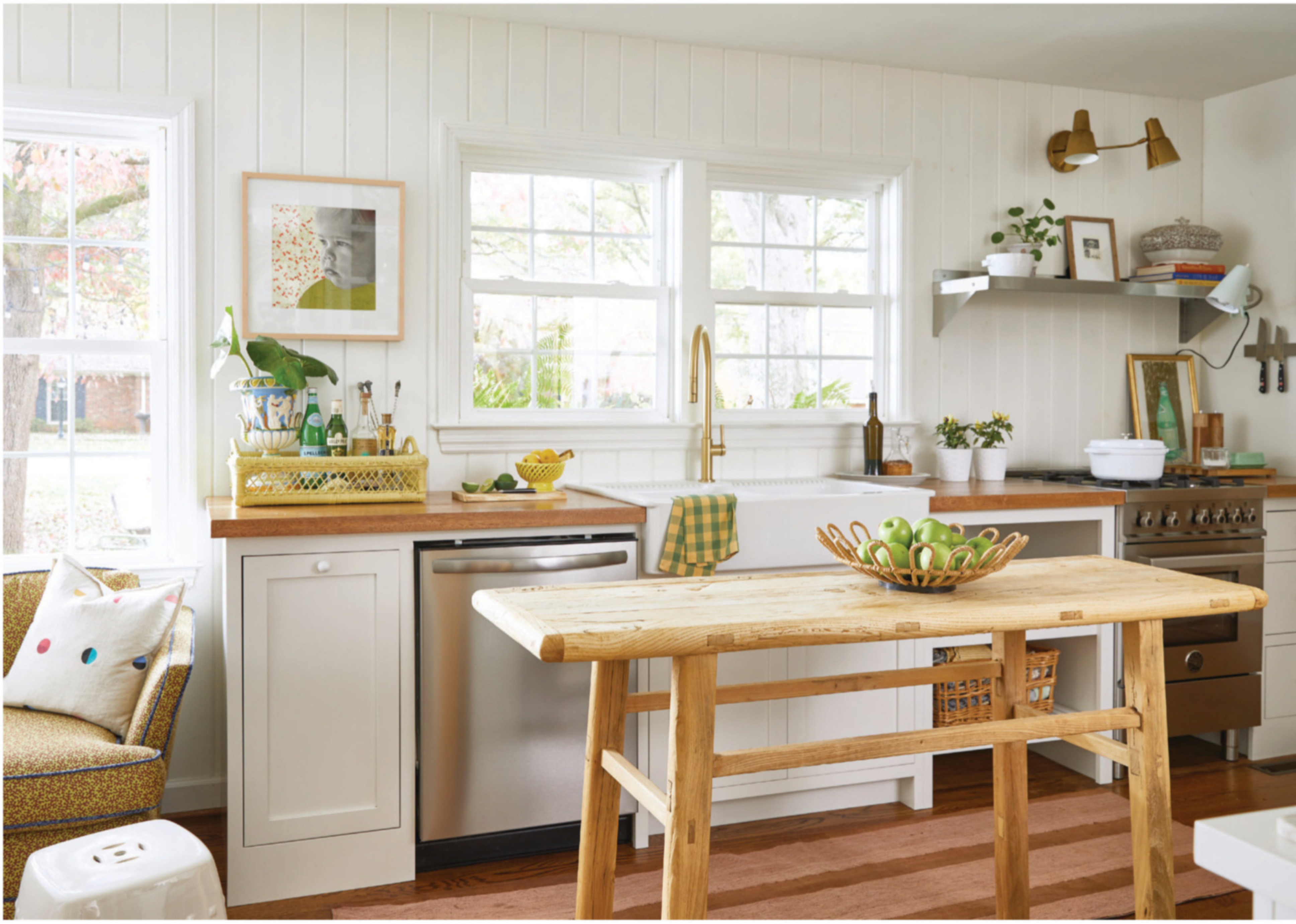
Use fixtures to echo motifs in a room—like this tie to the cane chair.

Amanda Louise Campbell and her husband, Kevin, knew they were taking on a project when they bought their 1970s split-level ranch in Greenville, South Carolina. But they didn't dive head-first into a big renovation—in fact, they completed it over years instead of months.

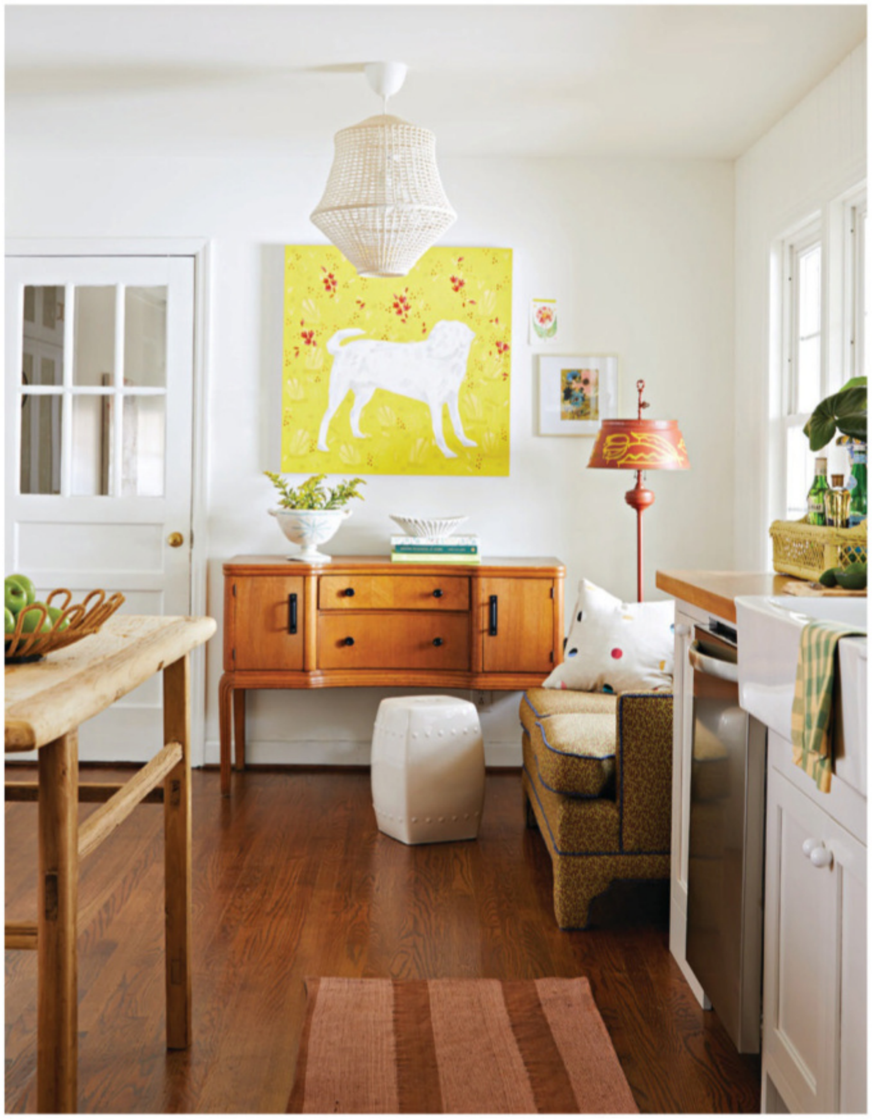
"Renovating the whole home at once wasn't realistic for us financially or practically," Amanda Louise, an interior designer (on Instagram @amandalouiseinteriors), says. So they worked room by room over time and, she says, the approach helped add more personality into the spaces.

As time and money allowed, she and Kevin tackled various projects in the 2,400-square-foot home. They replaced finishes and fixtures in the primary bathroom and moved the laundry from the attached garage into the house, making room in the garage for a mudroom. Finally—and most significantly—they revamped the kitchen, doing most of the demo and painting themselves and calling in the pros for the rest. "We knew the limits of our skill set," Amanda Louise says, laughing.

Decorating happened over time too. "Even though the house was built in the '70s, it was enough of a blank slate that we could take it where we wanted it to go," she says. For a decorator known for her use of color, that meant maxing out on textiles and wallpaper in upbeat shades of green, yellow, and coral and layering with vintage furnishings and art. "Since it was my own home, I felt like I could really go for it in terms of color and pattern."



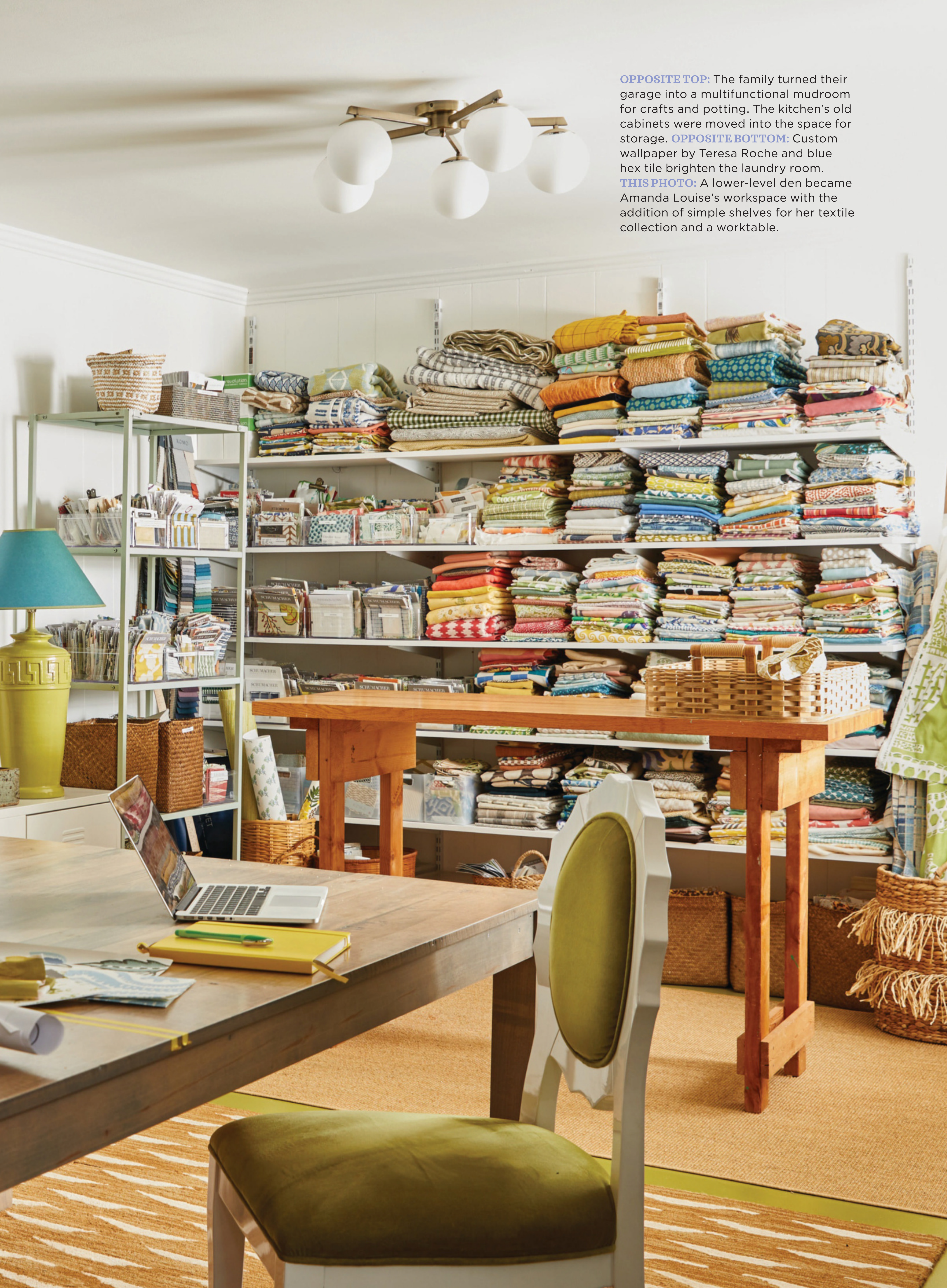
ABOVE: The couple considered expanding the kitchen but realized after living with it that they were fine with its size. They splurged on custom cabinetry to maximize space and saved money by adding a tall table instead of a custom island. **RIGHT:** As much as she loves color, Amanda Louise wanted more of a neutral backdrop in the kitchen. She brought in personality through choice finds: a vintage console and lamp, a commissioned painting of their family dog by Glory Day Loflin, and a love seat in a sunny corner, which is now everyone's favorite spot.



As they worked on the house, the couple changed course when their needs evolved, especially once they became parents (they now have two daughters, Lula and Perry). Amanda Louise converted a downstairs den into her studio, for example, so she could more easily balance work with parenthood. And storage rose on the list of priorities, she says, pointing to the custom cabinetry in the kitchen, sets of shelves hidden by skirted fabrics throughout the house, and a wall of floor-to-ceiling cabinets in the mudroom. "Of everything we've done in the house, creating places where I can shove away anything that needs to be shoved away—that was the real game changer," she says.

Interior Design: *Amanda Louise Interiors*

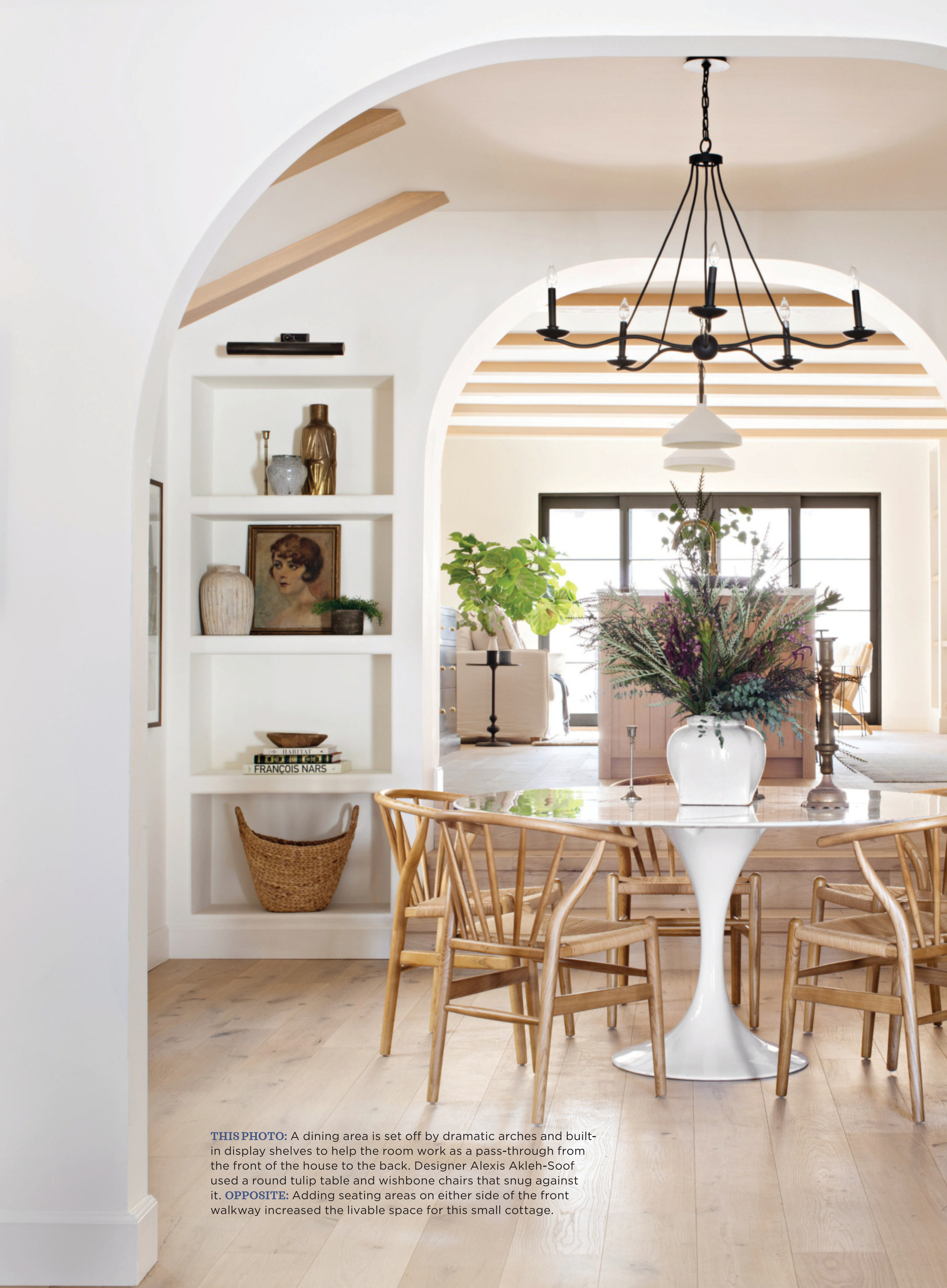
> “BY TAKING IT ROOM BY ROOM, WE COULD PUT MORE OF OURSELVES INTO EACH SPACE.”
>
> *—homeowner Amanda Louise Campbell*



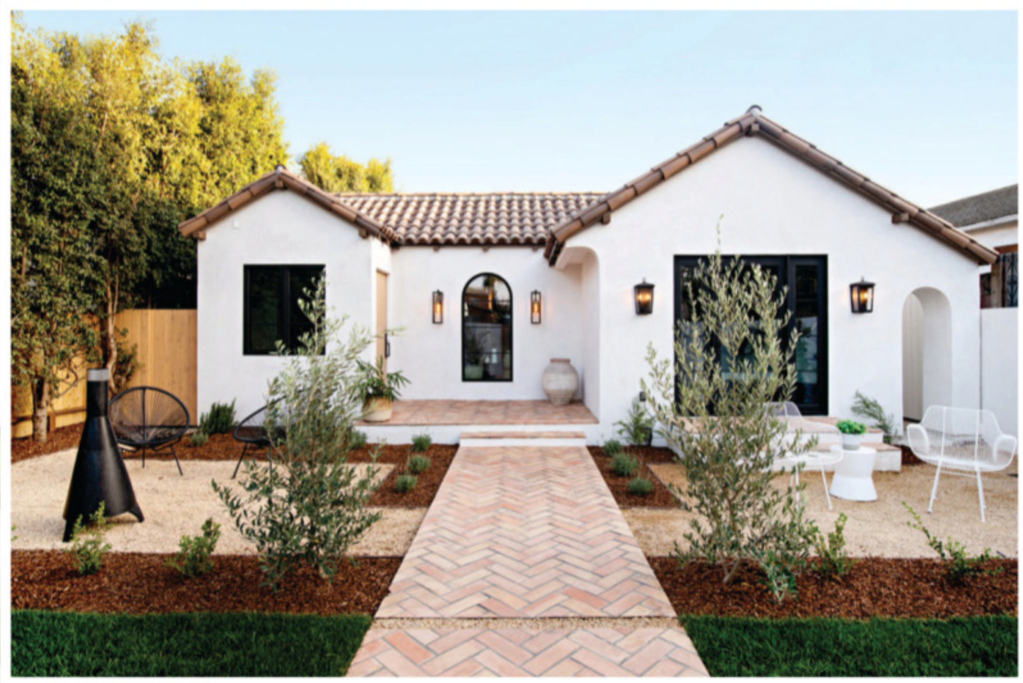
OPPOSITE TOP: The family turned their garage into a multifunctional mudroom for crafts and potting. The kitchen's old cabinets were moved into the space for storage. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Custom wallpaper by Teresa Roche and blue hex tile brighten the laundry room. **THIS PHOTO:** A lower-level den became Amanda Louise's workspace with the addition of simple shelves for her textile collection and a worktable.

CENTRAL PARK SCENE

OPPOSITE: Amanda Louise deftly mixed textiles in the primary bedroom; the varying scales of the patterns and white backdrop make it work. **LEFT & BELOW:** Whimsy rules in Lula's room, thanks to floral wallpaper, a reading nook created with the removal of closet doors, and a canopy above the bed. **BELOW LEFT:** The couple loved the original peach tub in the primary bath—the tan tile it was paired with not so much. Adding white tile, tongue-and-groove paneling, and lively prints freshens the look of the whole room.



THIS PHOTO: A dining area is set off by dramatic arches and built-in display shelves to help the room work as a pass-through from the front of the house to the back. Designer Alexis Akleh-Soof used a round tulip table and wishbone chairs that snug against it. **OPPOSITE:** Adding seating areas on either side of the front walkway increased the livable space for this small cottage.

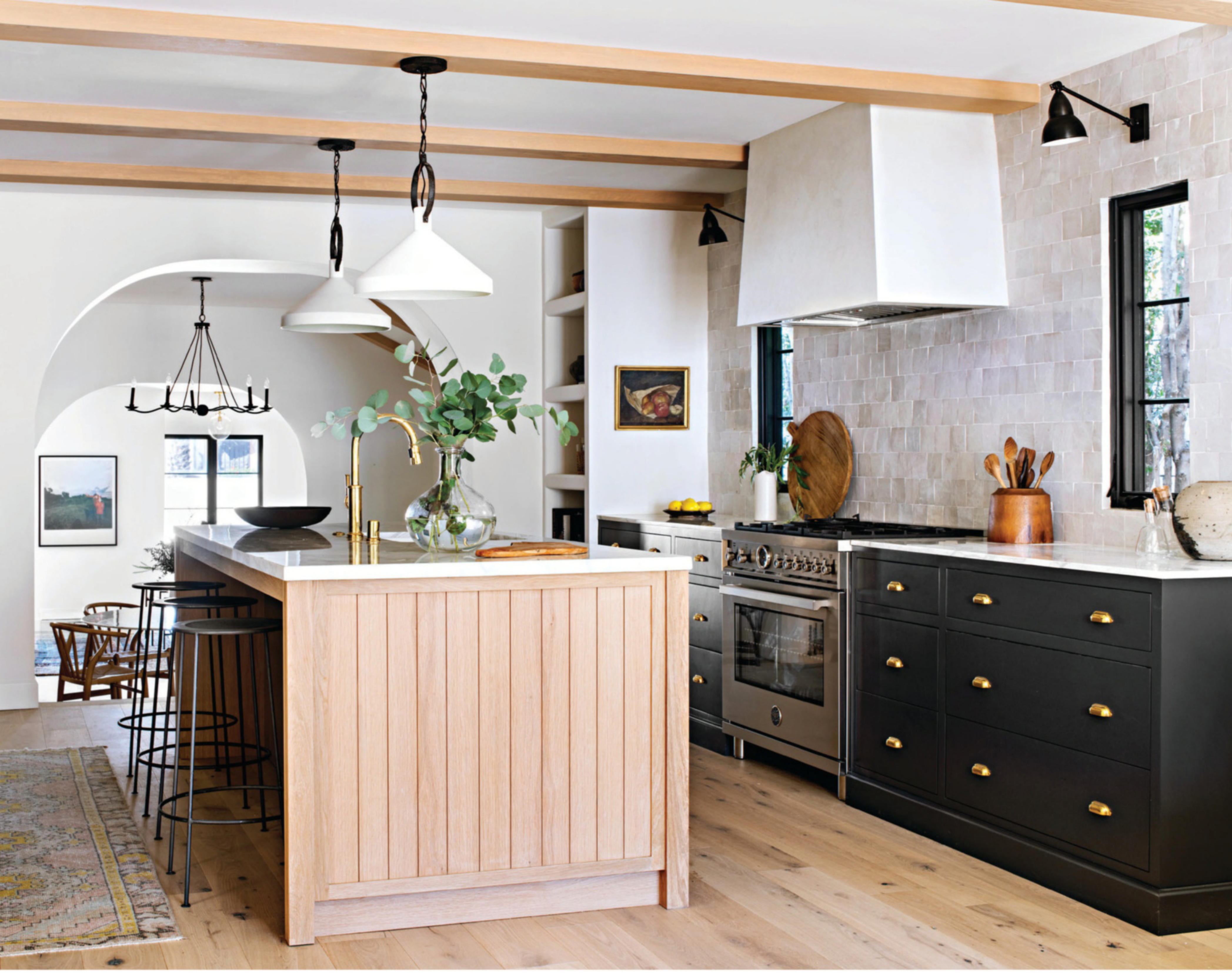


DIAMOND *in the* ROUGH

This down-on-its luck Spanish-style bungalow was saved by a team who could see its bright future.

WRITER **KATHRYN O'SHEA EVANS**
PHOTOGRAPHER **LAUREN TAYLOR**
FIELD EDITOR **KAREN REINECKE**

RIGHT: Vintage artwork and timeworn vessels lend character to this artfully layered niche. Antiques "add soul," Akleh-Soof says. "It feels more lived-in." **FAR RIGHT:** The kitchen's unlacquered brass hardware "patinas and ages over time," she says, complementing clean-lined cabinetry and a rich paint color (Farrow & Ball Railings). "I try to bridge the traditional with the modern in a way that's appropriate for the house." **BELOW:** Earthy textures and clean-lined furnishings create a relaxed, gallerylike calm in this thoughtfully edited living space. "My goal is always to do something that's going to stand the test of time," the designer says.



When a dilapidated bungalow in Venice, California—without running water or power, and stuffed to the rafters with flotsam and jetsam—came into the hands of a fearless flipper, it wasn't torn down. It was reborn. "It was one of the worst houses I've ever actually seen," recalls designer Alexis Akleh-Soof, of Soof Construction & Design, who the home's new owner hired to bring the property back to life. "The house had no plumbing and no electricity for … I don't know how many years!"

When Akleh-Soof first saw it, the home was so cluttered that you had to "step on a coffee table to get through a door," she recalls. Soaked rugs, bags of rotted food, abandoned construction projects from the previous owner—the house was frozen amid chaos. "I was in real estate and we flipped houses in the past," says Akleh-Soof, who runs the business with her husband, contractor Albert Soof. "So I've seen these types of houses. This was probably the worst one," she says.

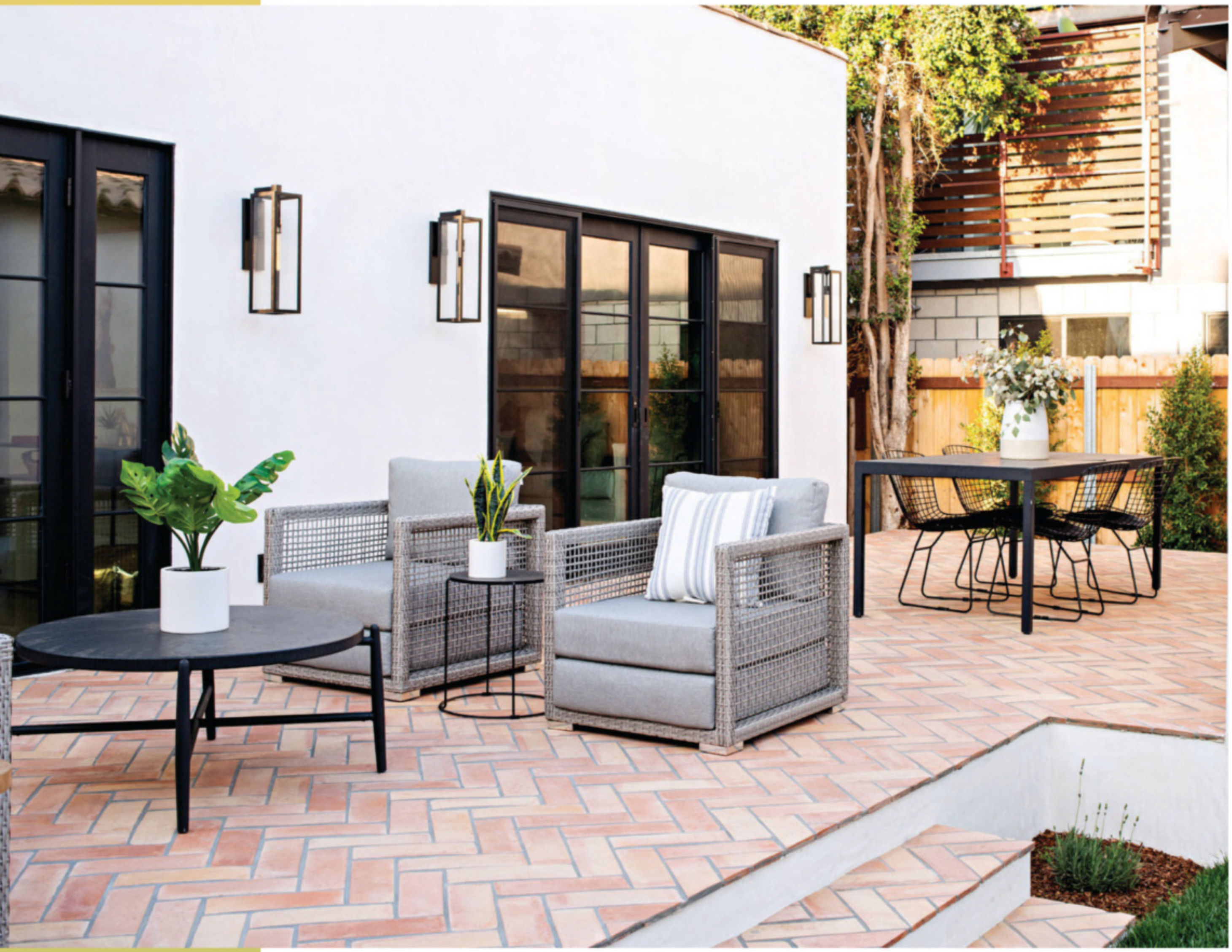
Still, they didn't raze it, "which is actually a very common thing to do in that area," she says. "Most buyers tear them down and put up several houses on one lot. I appreciated that the owner of this house didn't want to do that." Instead, the team made magic with resuscitation and reinvention. "From the looks of the exterior, I could see that at one point it was a Spanish house—and that's so appropriate in Southern California," she says.

With that architectural lineage in mind, their goal was to preserve the Spanish bungalow feel while taking the house down to the studs and reimagining the floor plan. "We made it more functional for the way people want to live now, and we tried to bring back some of the original details that you'd find in an old Spanish house," she says.

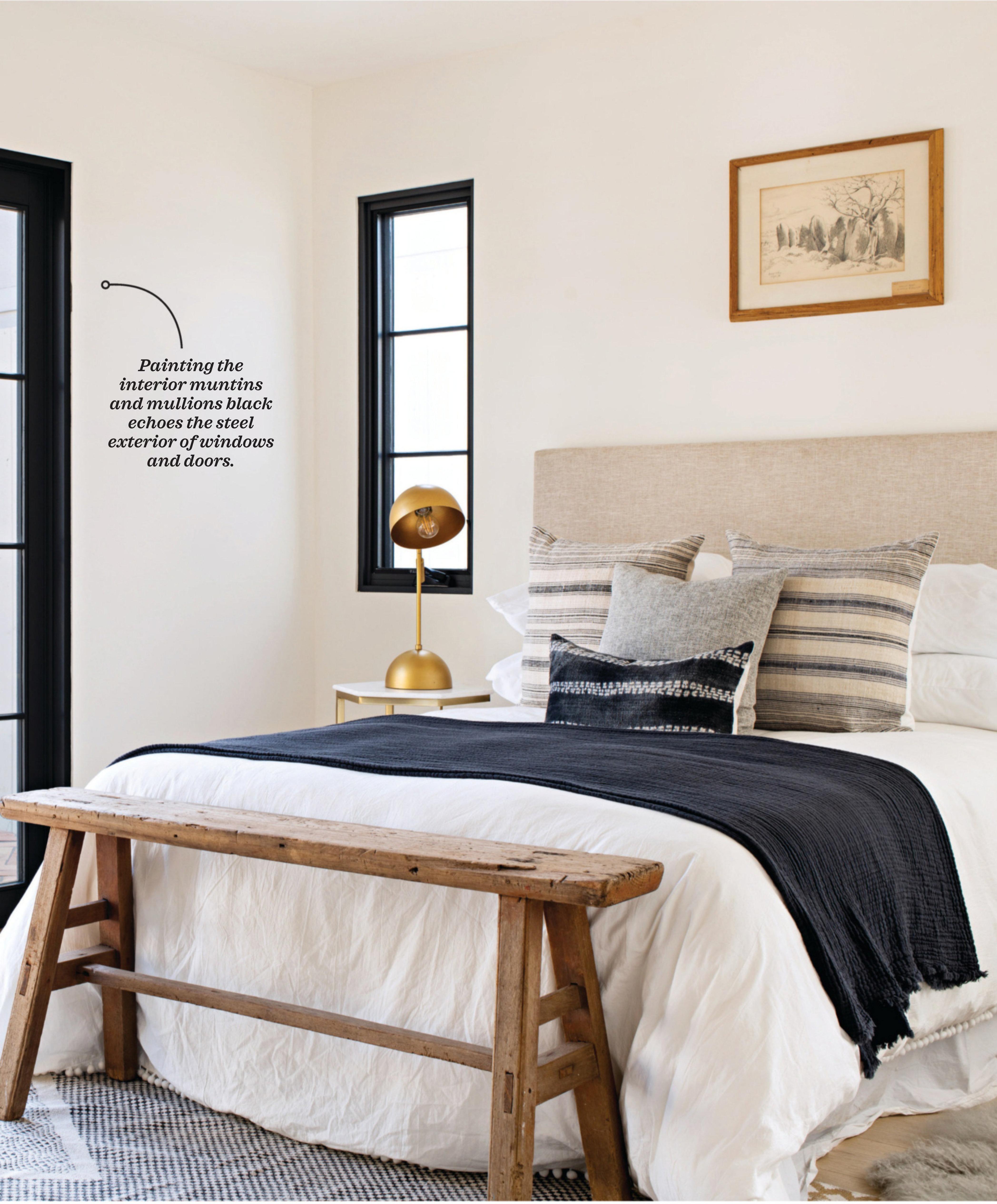
One such feature—the elevation change at the back—remained and is now used to kick off dynamic transitions inside. "The back is a few steps up," the designer explains of the rear portion of the floor plan that contains the kitchen, family room, laundry, two bedrooms, and a bathroom. "It's not quite a split level, but the back is elevated a few feet from the front." They used that shift to their advantage, creating a graceful movement as you roam the house. "I thought [the dining room] was a perfect place to put the steps and do a nice little dramatic entryway," she adds, referencing the arched passage flanked by built-in nooks that frame the steps. The change in height now serves as a moment of architectural punctuation.

White oak floors and wrapped beams also ground the interiors, as well as inky wrought iron and dark bronze finishes that serve as exclamation points. "They complement the dark windows nicely and gave all that light, fresh, and airy feel a little bit of contrast," Akleh-Soof says. The most striking contrast, however, lies between the then and now for this once unlivable home that now dazzles.

Design: *Alexis Akleh-Soof, Soof Construction & Design*
Contractor: *Albert Soof, Soof Construction & Design*



ABOVE: The exterior patios and walkways are made of large saltillo tile that Akleh-Soof had sliced down into a brick shape "so that I could create a herringbone pattern but maintain the budget," she says. **RIGHT:** A mix of nubby linens, clean black accents, and a weathered Chinese elmwood bench brings quiet luxury to this bedroom retreat. The walls are Benjamin Moore Cloud White. "It's a tried-and-true color with a warm undertone," the designer says. "It's not cold but still feels bright and fresh."

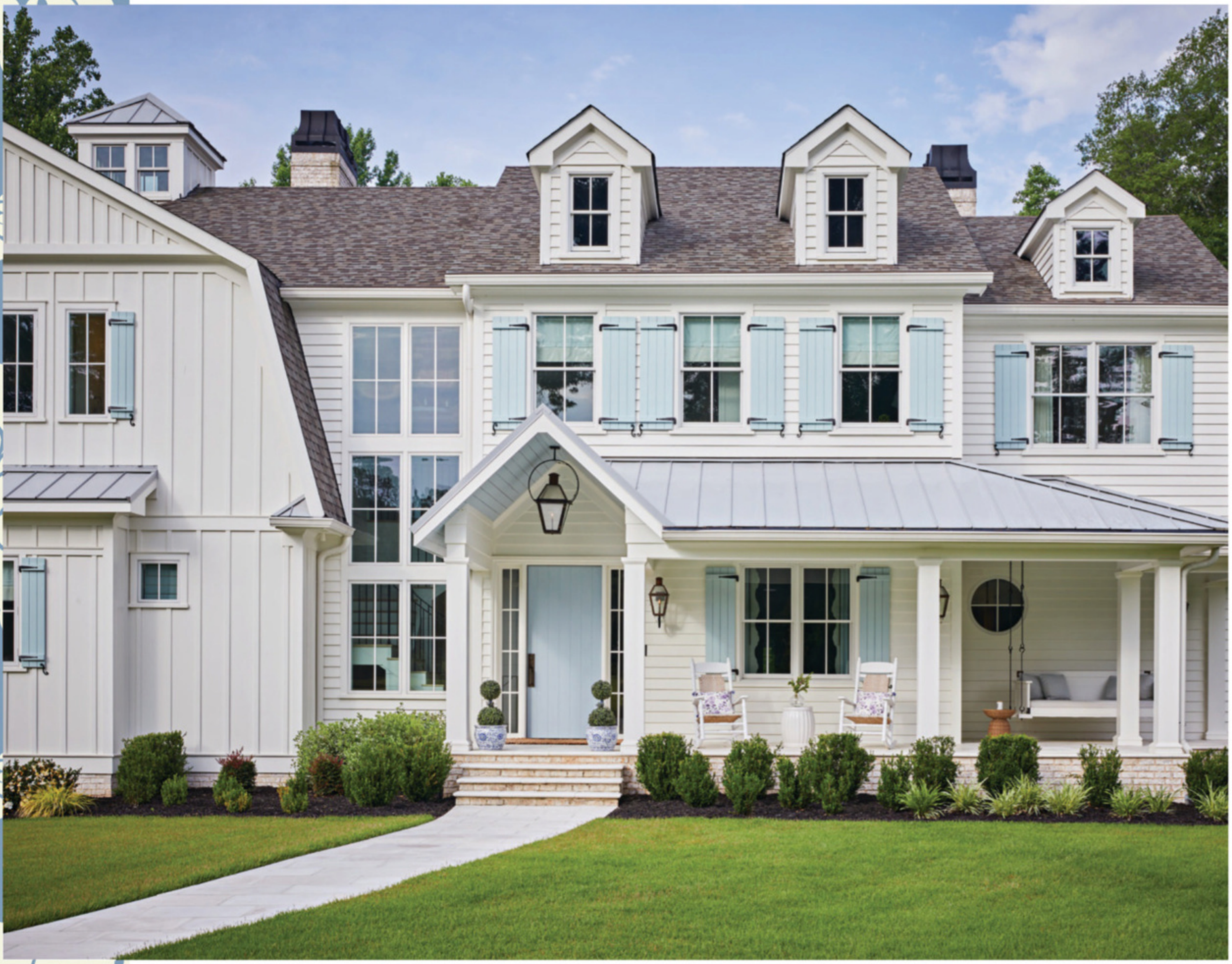


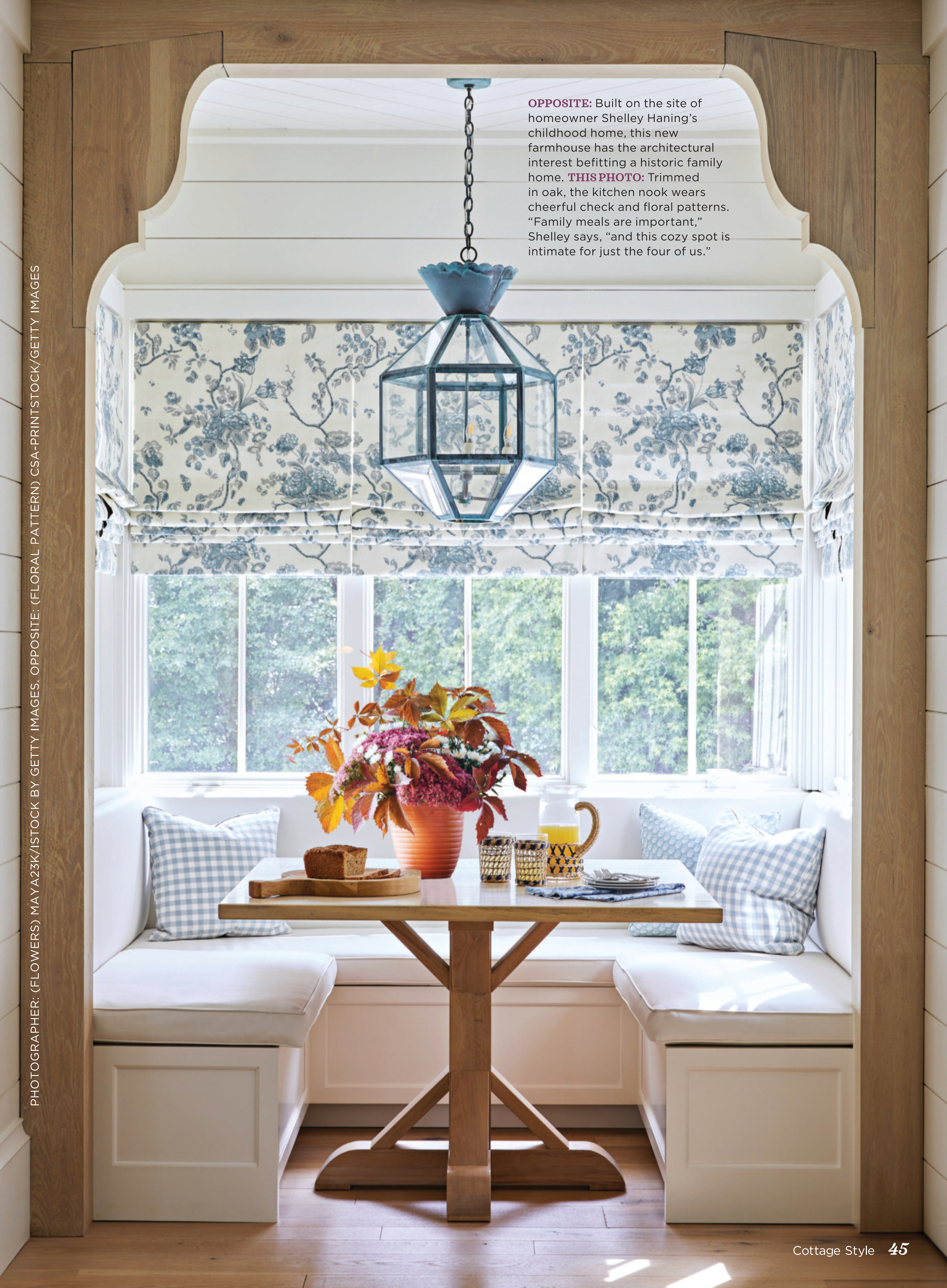
Painting the interior muntins and mullions black echoes the steel exterior of windows and doors.

NEW *meets* NOSTALGIC

A Georgia family took their character cues from the past when they built their new farmhouse on family land.

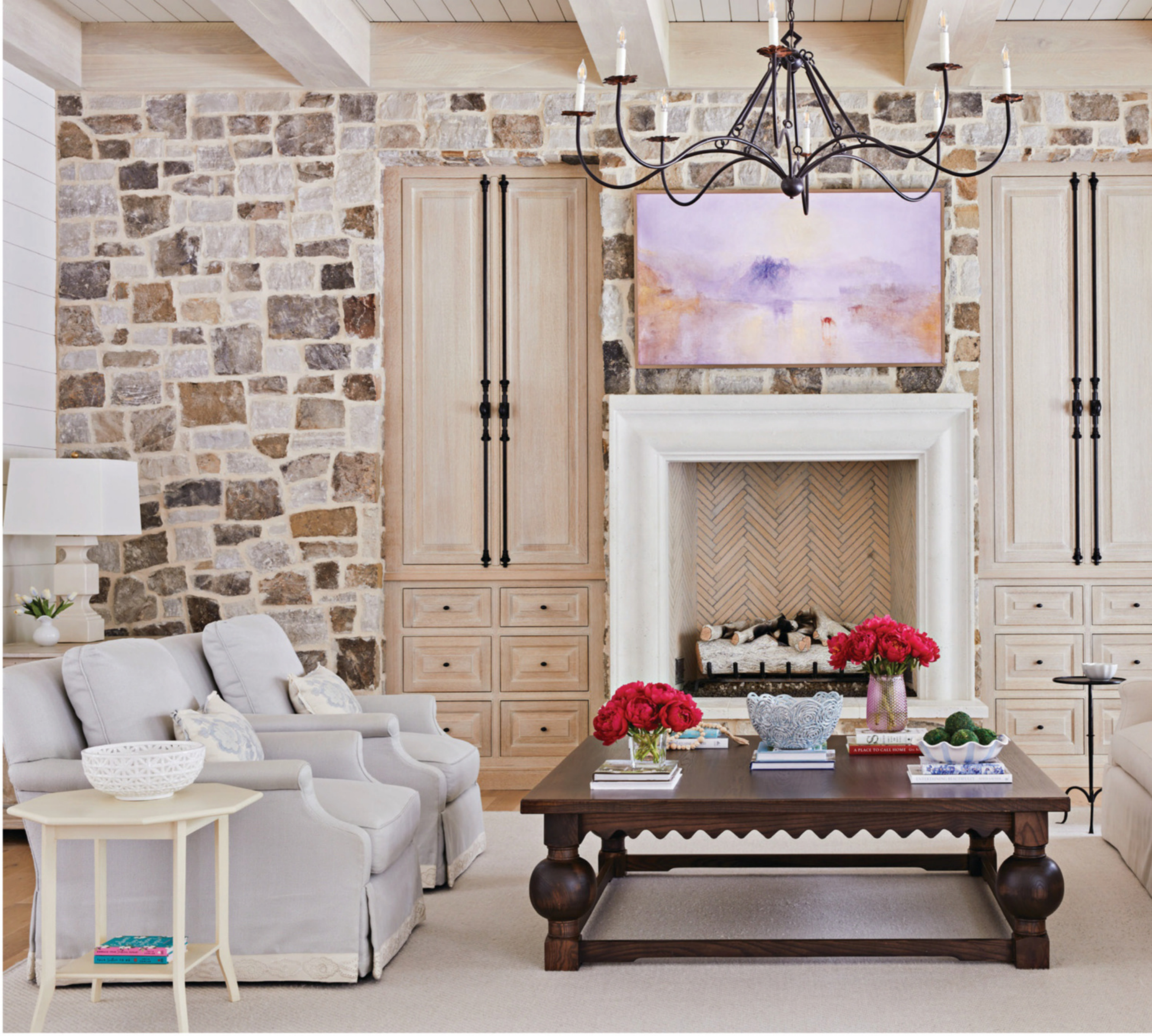
WRITER **KELLY RYAN KEGANS** PHOTOGRAPHER **KELLY BLACKMON**
STYLIST **DORCIA KELLEY**





OPPOSITE: Built on the site of homeowner Shelley Haning's childhood home, this new farmhouse has the architectural interest befitting a historic family home. **THIS PHOTO:** Trimmed in oak, the kitchen nook wears cheerful check and floral patterns. "Family meals are important," Shelley says, "and this cozy spot is intimate for just the four of us."

PHOTOGRAPHER: (FLOWERS) MAYA23K/ISTOCK BY GETTY IMAGES. OPPOSITE: (FLORAL PATTERN) CSA-PRINTSTOCK/GETTY IMAGES



ABOVE: Stone walls set with heavy grout relax the formality in the living room, where Bungalow Classic upholstered furniture is covered in outdoor performance fabric. Iron hardware on the cabinets flanking the fireplace carries up to the chandelier with swooping arms. **OPPOSITE TOP:** In the sunroom, tall windows crank open while a soaring vaulted ceiling brings an airiness to the wood-paneled room. Local artist Mary Meade Evans hand-painted the wood floor in a pattern inspired by a similar one in the home of Bunny Mellon, an American heiress renowned for her interior and garden designs. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** Outside, gas lanterns, a porch swing, and blue-painted ceilings (traditionally believed to ward off evil spirits) are classic features in homes throughout the South. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** Shelley and Ryan Haning with pups Lady and Piper.

The view from Shelley Haning's front porch is one she's known for a lifetime. It's the same view she had growing up in the log house her parents built. Today, she shares that vantage point with her own family—husband, Ryan, and their two sons. Situated on 63 acres in Newnan, Georgia, just south of Atlanta, the Hanings' new farmhouse was built on the footprint of Shelley's childhood home. It faces the familiar northeastern sunrise with a long driveway leading up to the front door.

The Hanings bought the land from Shelley's parents, and although they couldn't save the original house, the Hanings were intent on giving their new home hallmarks that are reminders of both Shelley's lineage and her shared Southern upbringing with Ryan, who grew up in South Carolina. "It's really a legacy project," says interior designer Anna Booth. "We wanted to maintain certain elements for that nostalgic feeling."

Those similarities begin with the gambrel roof inspired by Shelley's former home. "Our house looked like two barns put together with a little porch in the middle," she says. The new home increased the size of that porch, with added flickering gas lanterns and a white-and-blue exterior palette to hint at the Low

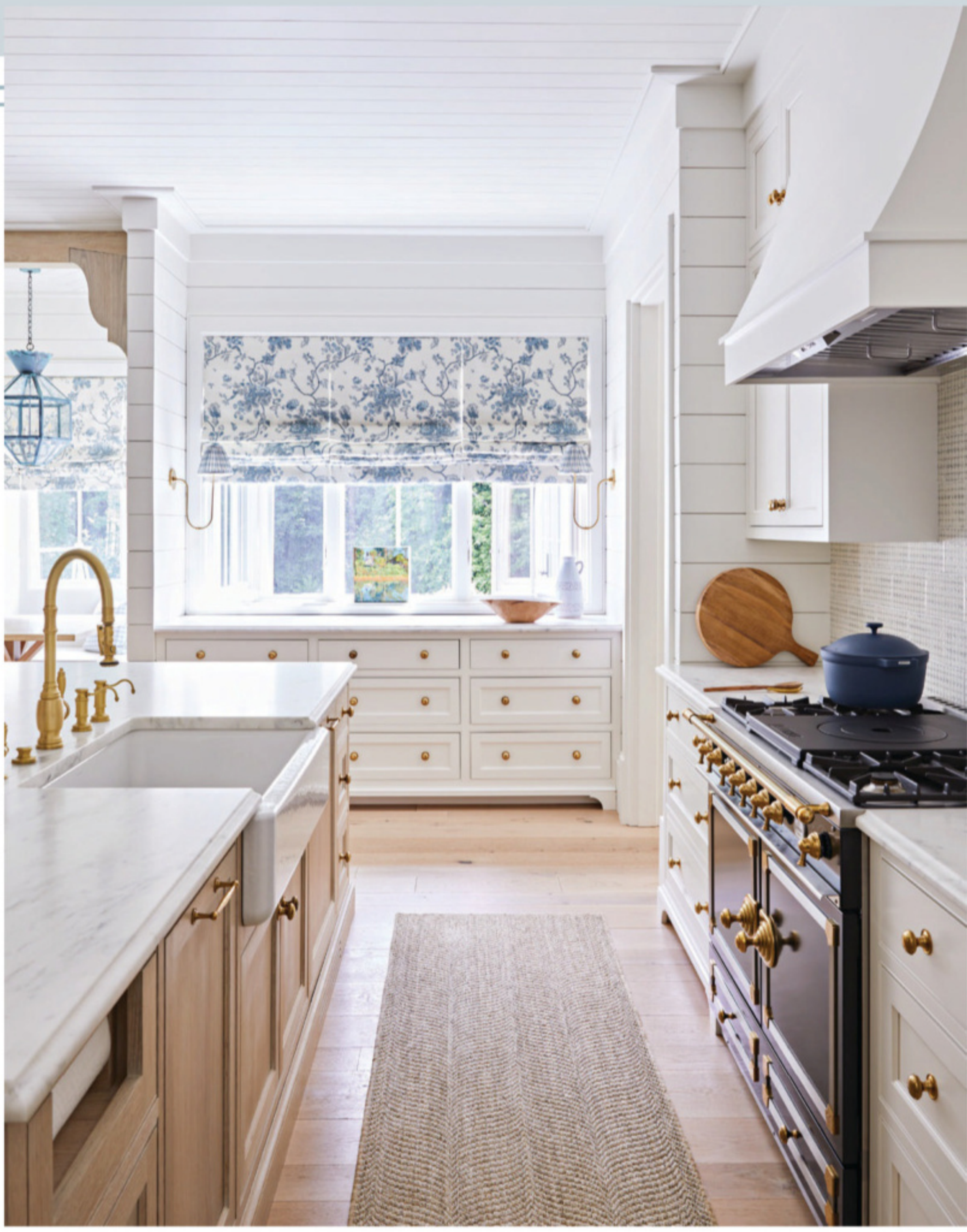
A weathered finish on the creamy white Low Country-inspired chandelier adds instant age.

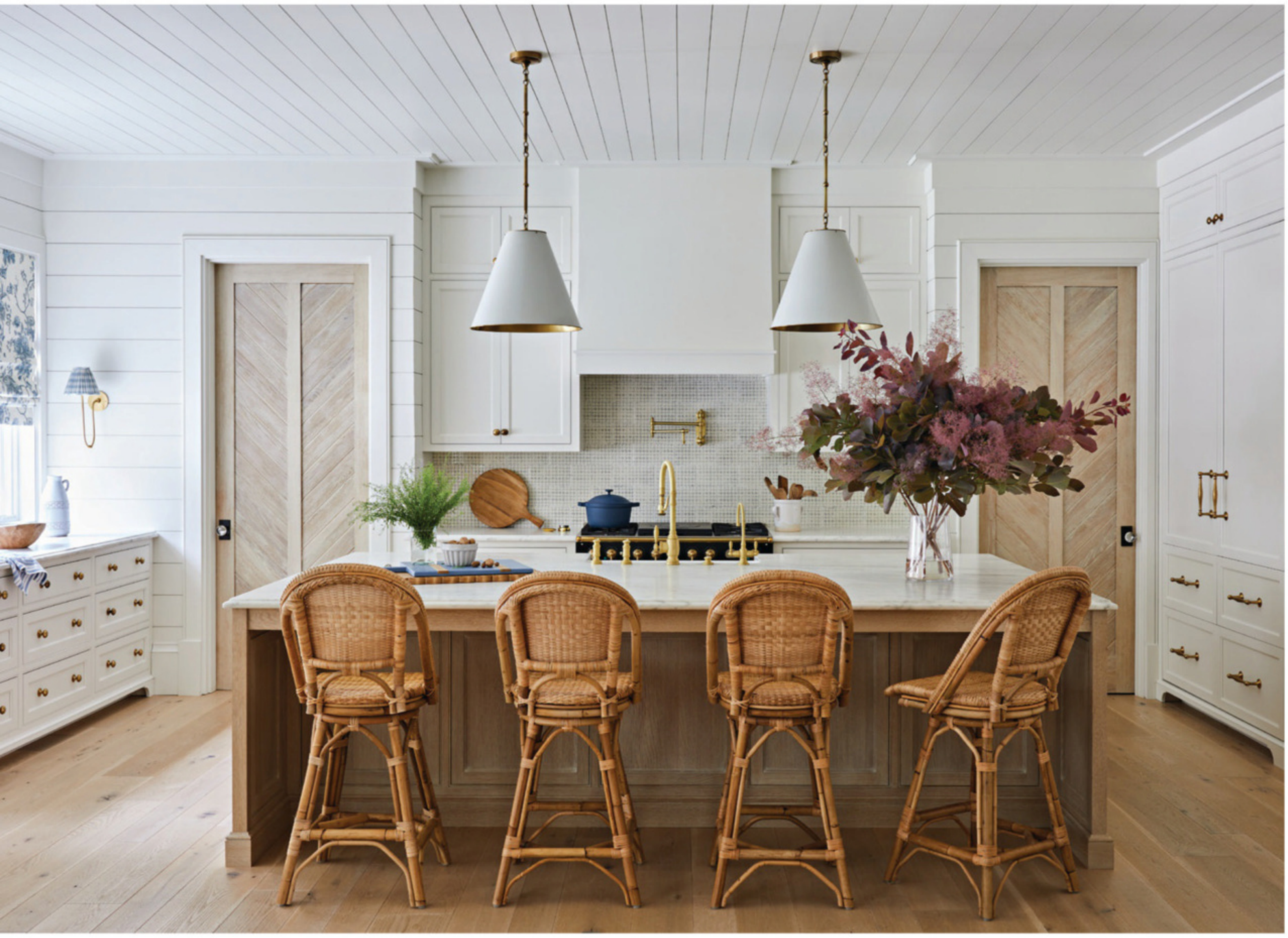
Country style the couple treasure. Inside, the home is light and airy with white oak floors, stone and shiplap walls, and painted wood paneling—all textures that add structure to balance the home's softer touches.

"Every room has a masculine and a feminine element," Booth says. "And even with some of the formal moments, we wanted things to still feel approachable with no pretension." For example, the dining room's paneled walls are stately, but they wear a light blue paint. Linen draperies with a scalloped edge add to the lighter finish. Throughout the common areas, furniture is slipcovered and upholstered in performance fabrics to stand up to wear and spills.

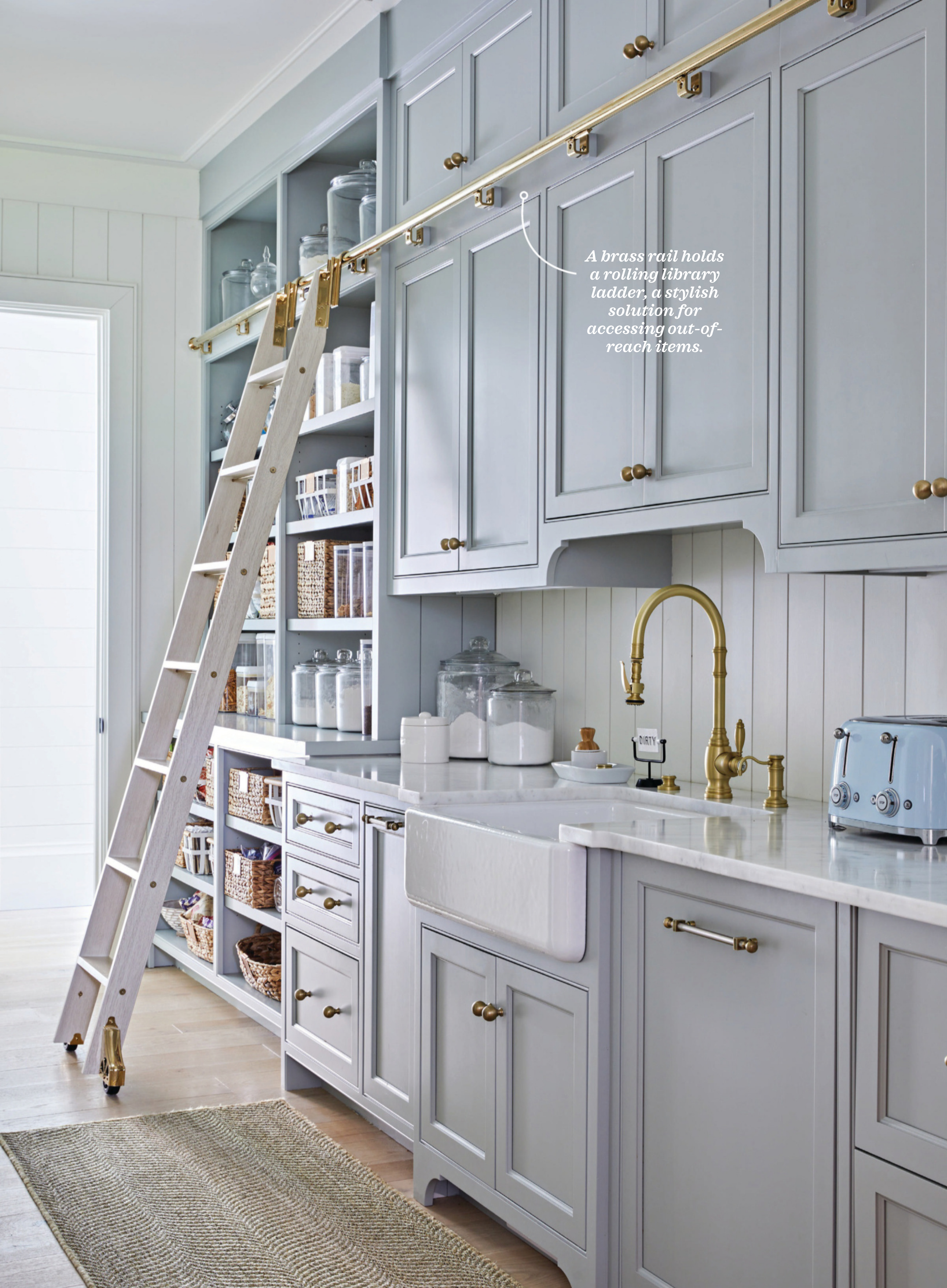
"Our vision was for this to be the hangout spot for our kids and their friends," Ryan says. And while the couple say they are appreciative of their home's well-executed design and local craftsmanship, they are just as quick to express gratitude for how their new home holds up to the messiness of daily living. "There's usually a bunch of boys running through our house," Ryan says. "But that's what we wanted. We want people to be comfortable." ⌂

Interior Design: *Anna Booth Interiors* ***Builder:*** *David Lewis & Co.* ***Exterior Draftsman:*** *Dale Jankunas*

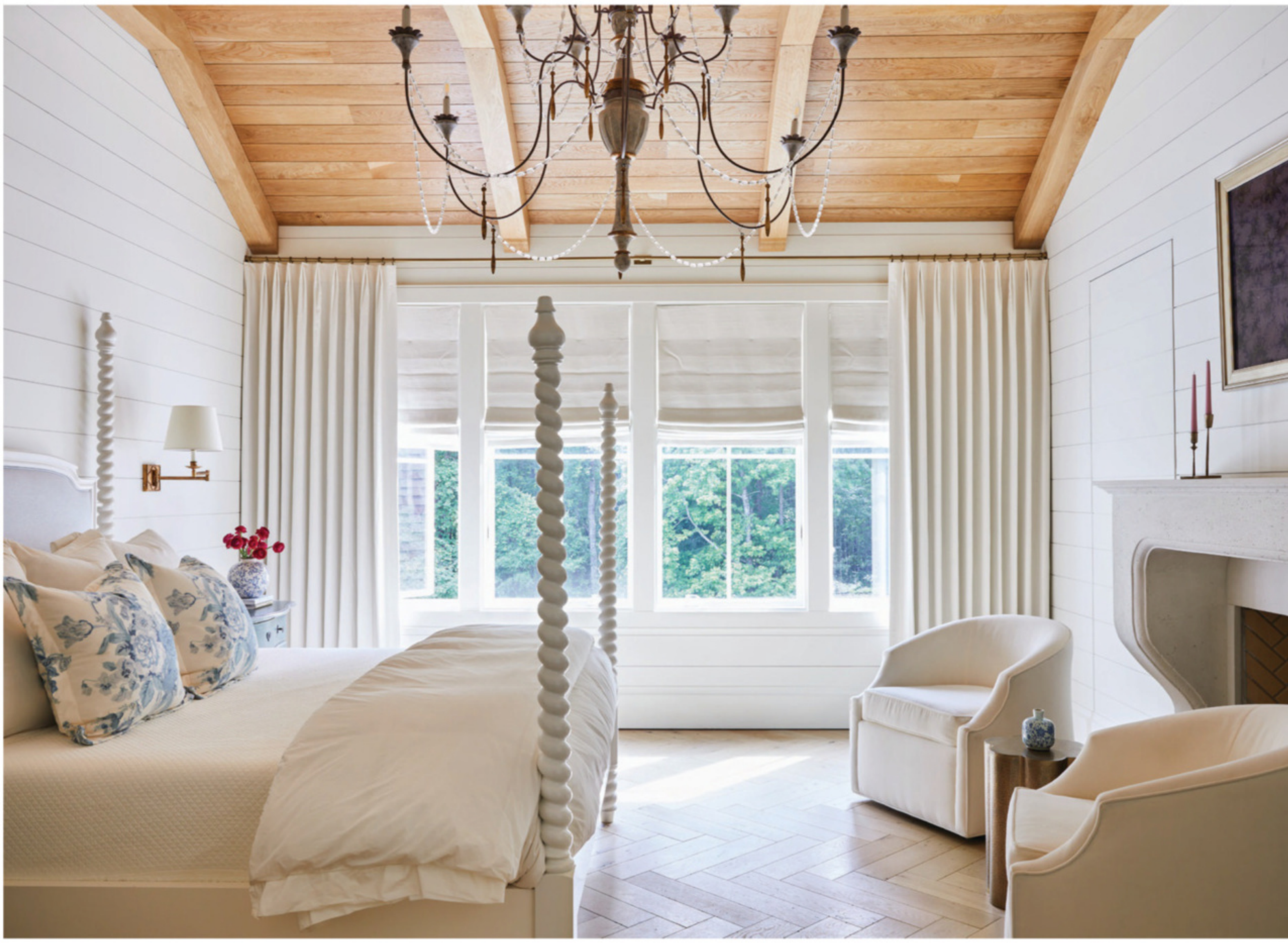


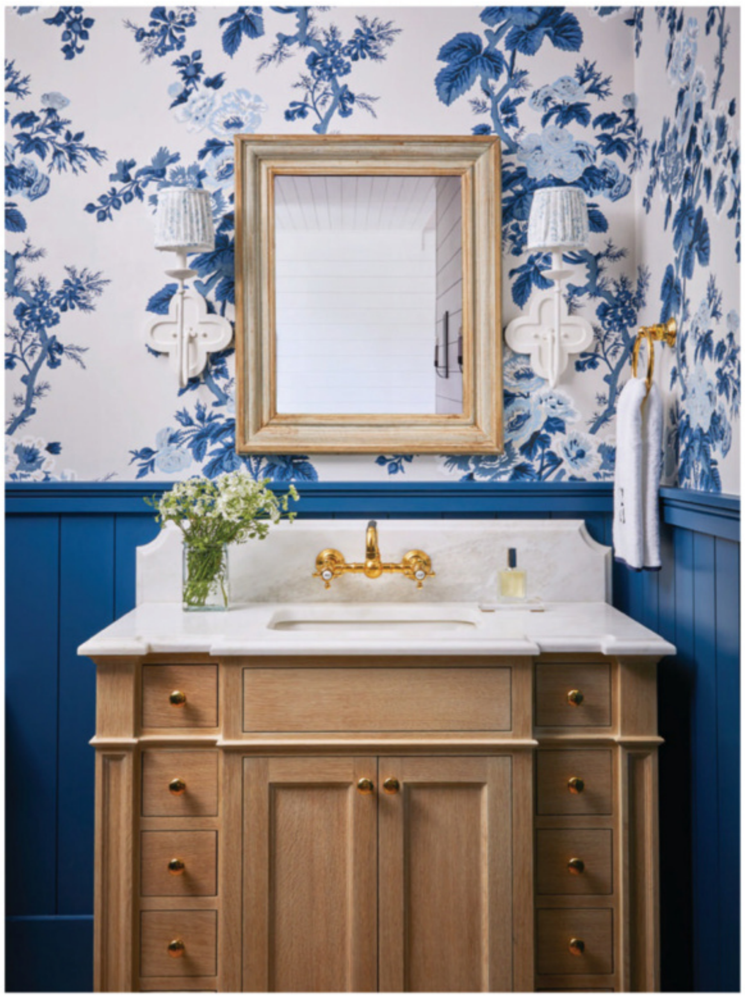


ABOVE: Windows, rather than upper cabinets, top the kitchen's bank of drawers. The wood island warms the marble counters and white-painted perimeter cabinets. **LEFT:** Chevron-paneled wood doors bring additional symmetry to the kitchen and lead to the scullery behind the range wall. Subtle pattern in the backsplash above the range adds depth while rattan counter-height chairs relax the space. **OPPOSITE:** Painted the same blue as the dining room, the kitchen's scullery is pretty and practical with a prep sink and open and closed storage for small appliances and other sundries.



A brass rail holds a rolling library ladder, a stylish solution for accessing out-of-reach items.





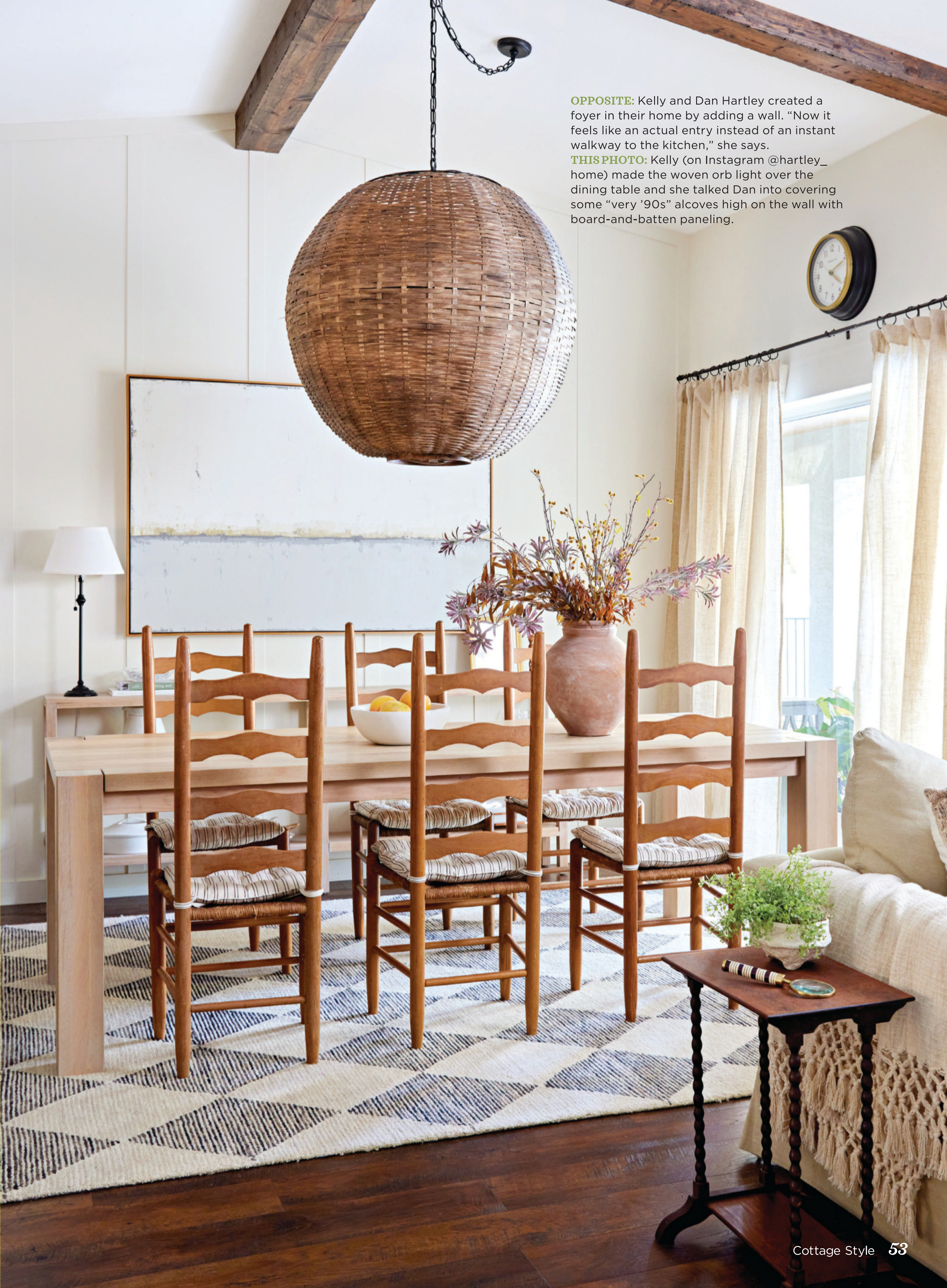
> “WE DIDN’T WANT TO CREATE A MUSEUM; WE WANTED EVERYONE TO GET COMFY.”
>
> —*homeowner Ryan Haning*

LEFT: While the dining room is enveloped in wood surfaces, the varied treatments keep the look polished. Oak floorboards in a herringbone pattern add visual interest underfoot while the painted walls offer a soft contrast to the wood table and sideboard. The painted French Country-style chairs are a tailored finish that channels a relaxed formality. **TOP:** The primary bedroom is a tonal cocoon, simply furnished with the barley twist bed facing a cast-stone fireplace surround. A wood-clad arched ceiling brings warmth above the cloudlike textiles and is adorned with a two-tier iron chandelier trimmed in glass beads. **ABOVE:** The main-level powder room delivers a visual punch in a small space with Pyne Hollyhock wallpaper by Schumacher and wainscoting saturated in bold blue (Farrow & Ball Hague Blue). The oak vanity brings in the wood tones from elsewhere in the house.

from first to FOREVER

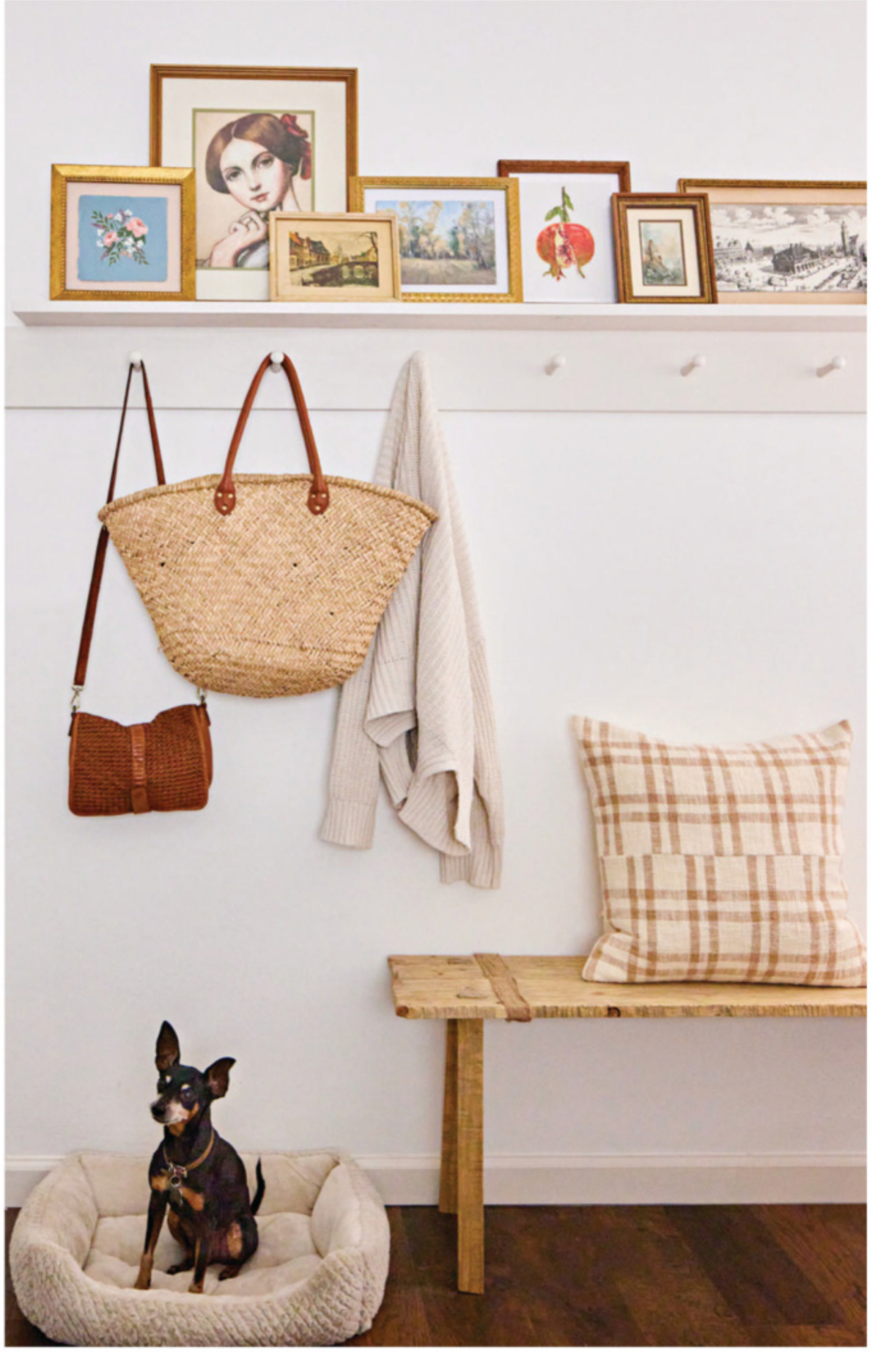
It was supposed to be a starter home. But 14 years later, it's filled with DIY sweat equity and family memories.

WRITER **LACEY HOWARD** PHOTOGRAPHER **ADAM ALBRIGHT**
PRODUCER **NATALIE DAYTON**

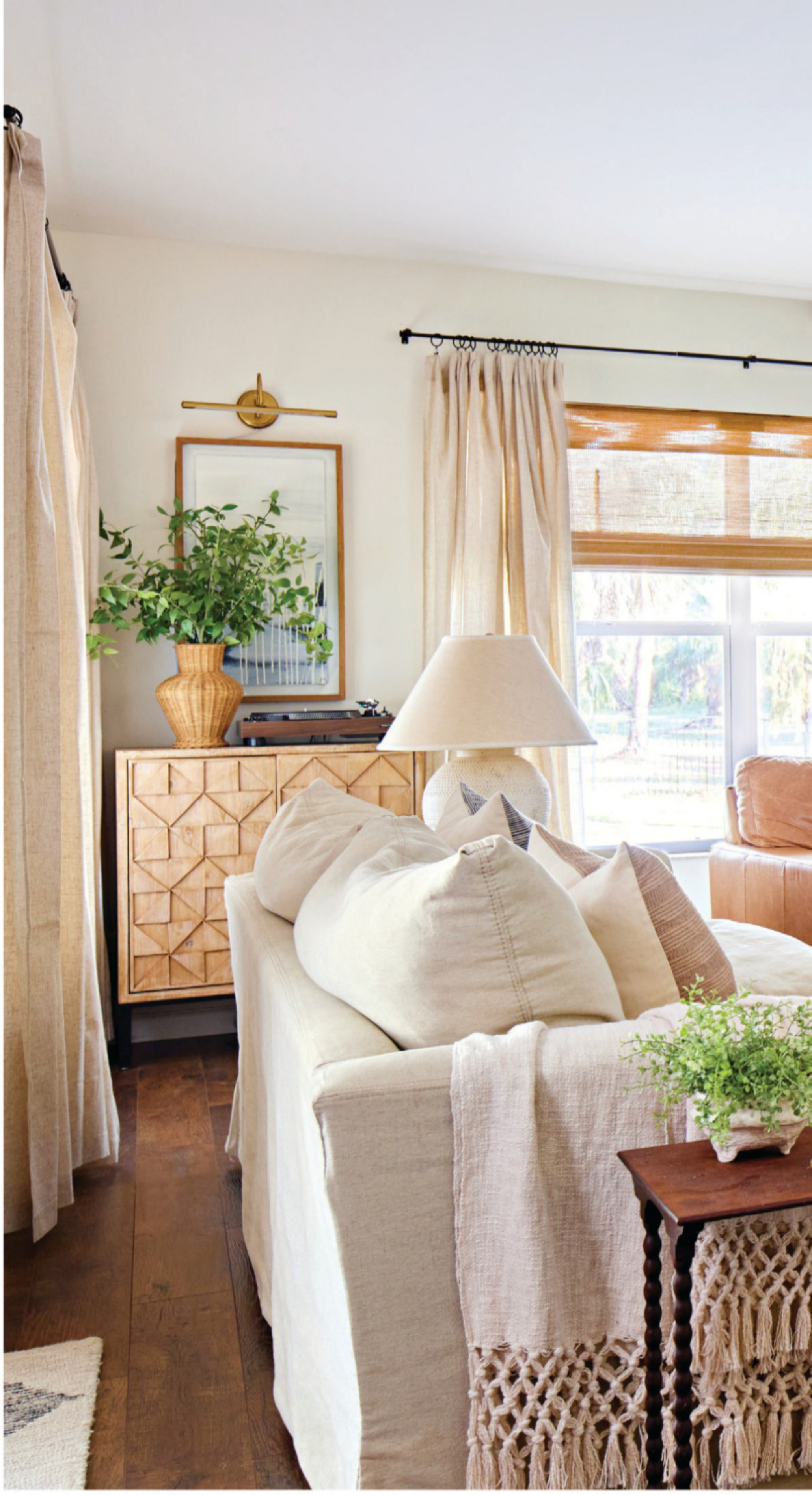


OPPOSITE: Kelly and Dan Hartley created a foyer in their home by adding a wall. “Now it feels like an actual entry instead of an instant walkway to the kitchen,” she says.

THIS PHOTO: Kelly (on Instagram @hartley_home) made the woven orb light over the dining table and she talked Dan into covering some “very ’90s” alcoves high on the wall with board-and-batten paneling.



TOP: Kelly and Dan Hartley were newlyweds when they bought their southwest Florida home in 2011. **ABOVE:** Kelly added a shelf and peg rail where other storage won't fit. "I needed a way to make it pretty without blocking our path," she says. Their dog Snoop chills next to Kelly's first-ever furniture project. "I wouldn't sit on it if I were you!" she says with a laugh, noting her skills have improved. **ABOVE RIGHT:** In the living room, the couple crafted the coffee tables, console, ladder, and ceiling beams that "made the house way more interesting, less basic-builder," Kelly says.



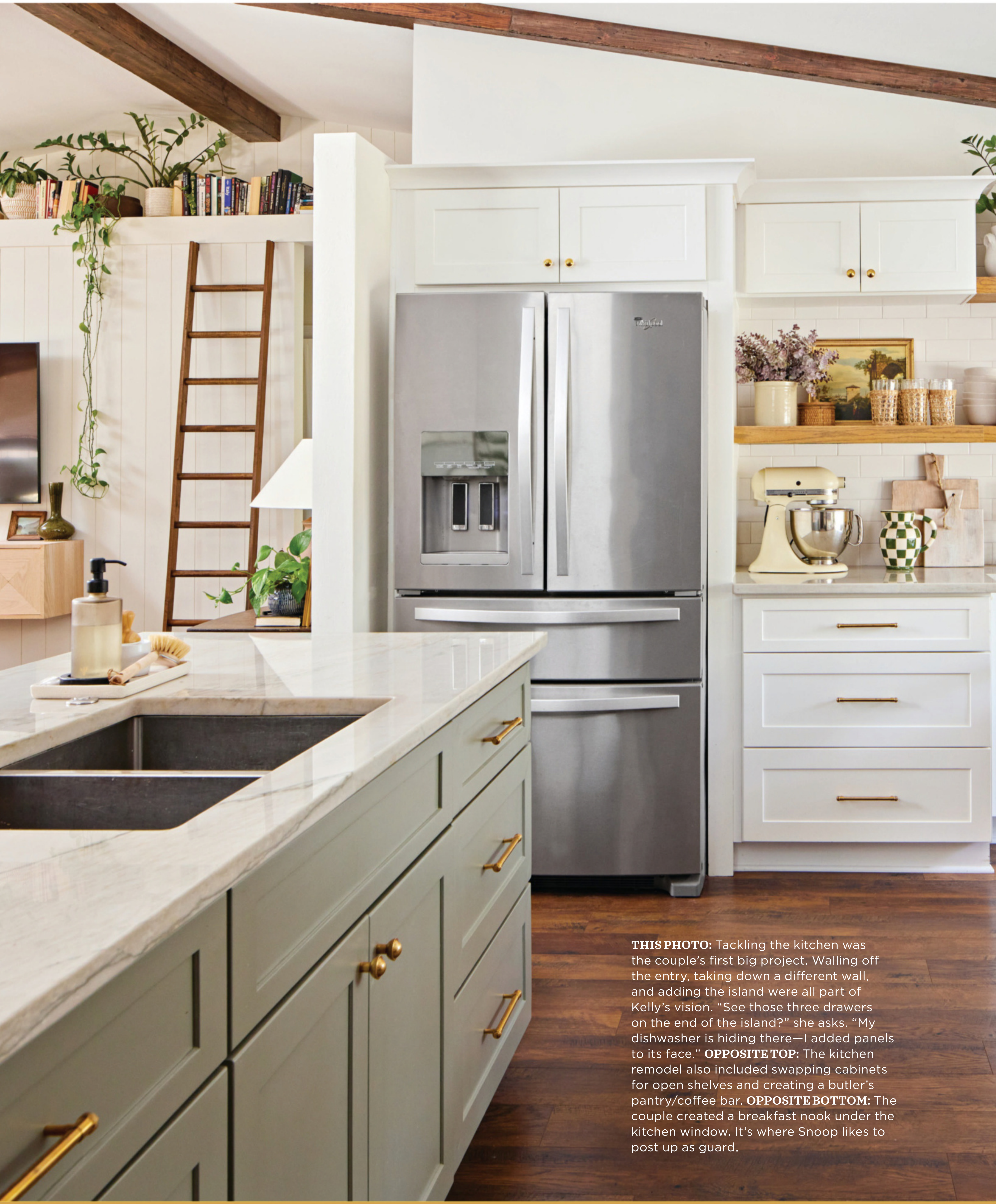
As newlyweds, Kelly and Dan Hartley were attracted to the simple, clean design of their first house. "There's a lot you can do with a fresh slate that doesn't have a particular style," she says now. And "do" they did! Over the past 14 years the couple has transformed their home as their family grew to include daughters Emilia, 11, and Evie, 10. "The more memories and updates we make here, the less I want to ever leave!" Kelly says.

In the open great-room, beams (aged, stained, assembled, and installed by the couple) span the ceiling and "add a lot of character and make spaces all flow so nicely together," she says. A major kitchen renovation ("our first big project," she says) created an entryway inside the front door as well as a breakfast nook and

butler's pantry. "What once felt small and crowded now feels so open," she says. Dan worked on the window seat with his dad and Kelly DIY'd the table. "When I bought it, it was a round top with a white tulip base. As our family grew, I wanted a bigger table, so I made a new oval top out of birch." For the base, she wrapped it in a plastic outdoor furniture material and secured it with high-temperature hot glue. "It came out way better than I expected!" she says. "It's where I drink my coffee every morning and our pup Snoop looks out the window. We eat meals here and it's where the girls do their homework."

Kelly's eye for decorating elevates every room of her home. Her color palette is inspired by nature—"the beach and the mountains—more than just the colors outside our front door," she says. It includes a mix of wood tones and pale-to-medium neutrals that create a cozy atmosphere. Wall treatments—like wallpaper (the old-school paste-it-yourself kind) and board-and-batten—dress rooms in pattern and texture. "They add so much interest to your home," Kelly says, adding that "wood treatments are surprisingly easy to do and instantly elevate any space."

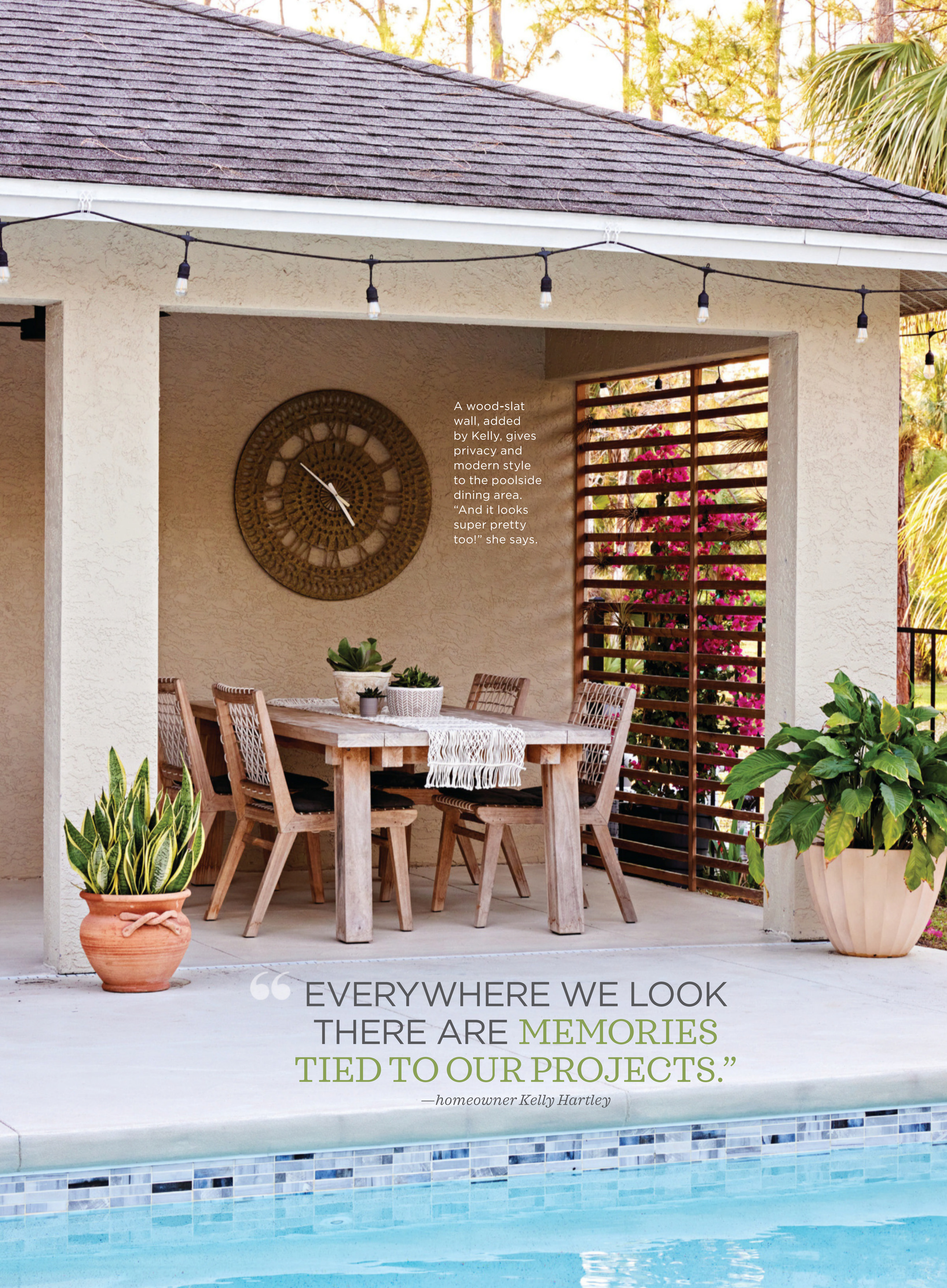
Thanks to their projects, the Hartleys' once blank-slate home is a perfect—and evolving—fit and "a haven for our family no matter how crazy the world gets," Kelly says. And rather than moving, "we may eventually add on," she says. "I want there to be room for the girls as they grow up, and maybe one day their families." One of Kelly's followers said her home was like a warm hug. "And that made me insanely happy," she says. This is one hug that isn't ending anytime soon.



THIS PHOTO: Tackling the kitchen was the couple's first big project. Walling off the entry, taking down a different wall, and adding the island were all part of Kelly's vision. "See those three drawers on the end of the island?" she asks. "My dishwasher is hiding there—I added panels to its face." **OPPOSITE TOP:** The kitchen remodel also included swapping cabinets for open shelves and creating a butler's pantry/coffee bar. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The couple created a breakfast nook under the kitchen window. It's where Snoop likes to post up as guard.

ABOVE LEFT & ABOVE: “Evie and Emilia wanted to share a room and it was really fun to make this cute little space for them to enjoy,” Kelly says. They painted the beds and dresser and added the wallpaper; Dan made drawers for the window seat. “I love to hear them talking to each other before they fall asleep and know they’re creating so many special memories in here,” Kelly says **LEFT & RIGHT:** The primary suite layers on shades of beige and brown. Kelly dyed the rattan lampshades and refinished the white bathroom vanity to look like wood with Retique It, a paint product. **BELOW LEFT:** “The laundry room used to be really basic and not pretty at all,” Kelly says. She added wallpaper, the countertop, and cabinets. “I thought it would be fun to add rustic saloon doors and Dan helped me make those.” **BELOW & BELOW RIGHT:** Kelly gave the guest bath a sophisticated makeover. She added paneling to walls and trim to the vanity doors to make them look like drawers; she also painted old shower tile to look like zellige tile.

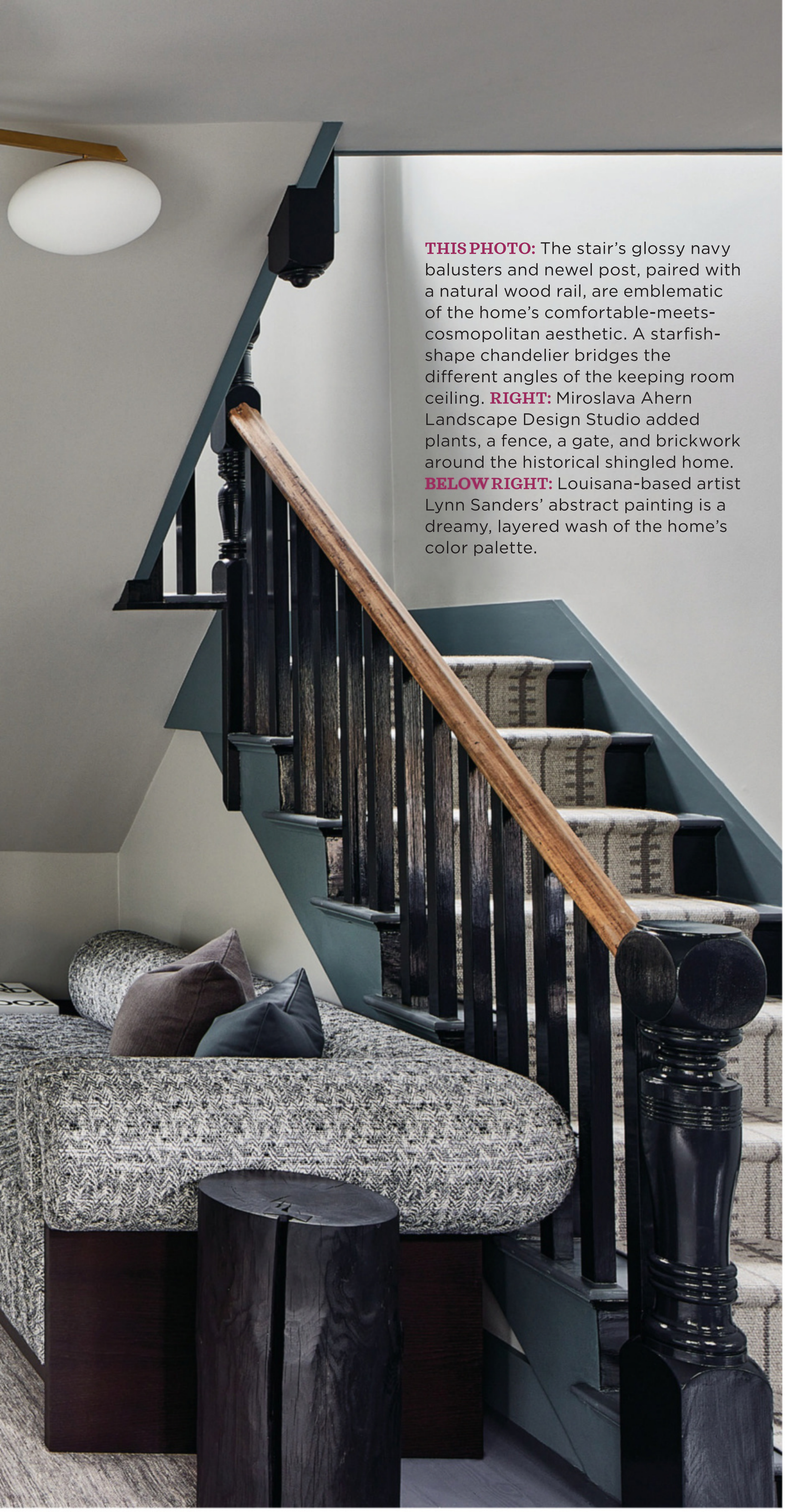
THE HARTLEY FAMILY



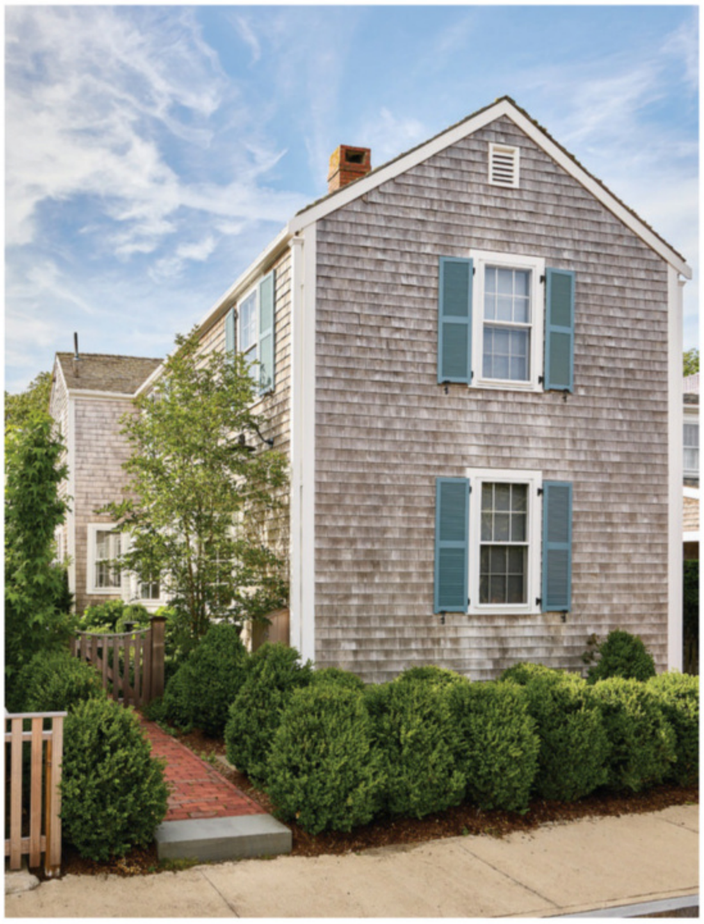
A wood-slat wall, added by Kelly, gives privacy and modern style to the poolside dining area. “And it looks super pretty too!” she says.

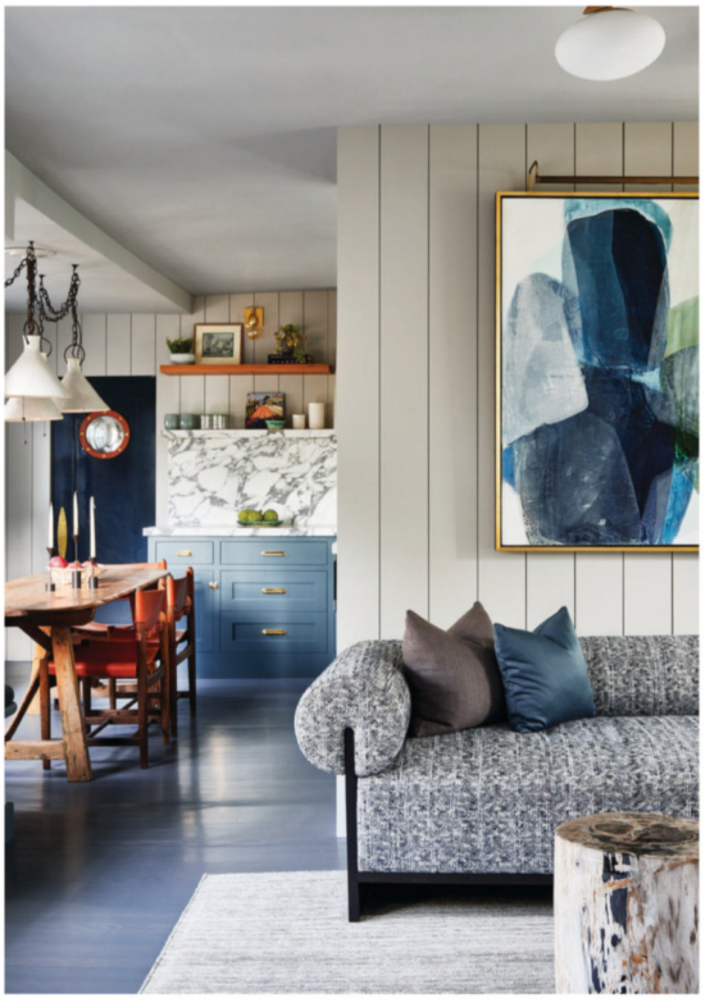
> “EVERYWHERE WE LOOK THERE ARE MEMORIES TIED TO OUR PROJECTS.”
>
> *—homeowner Kelly Hartley*

perfect STORM



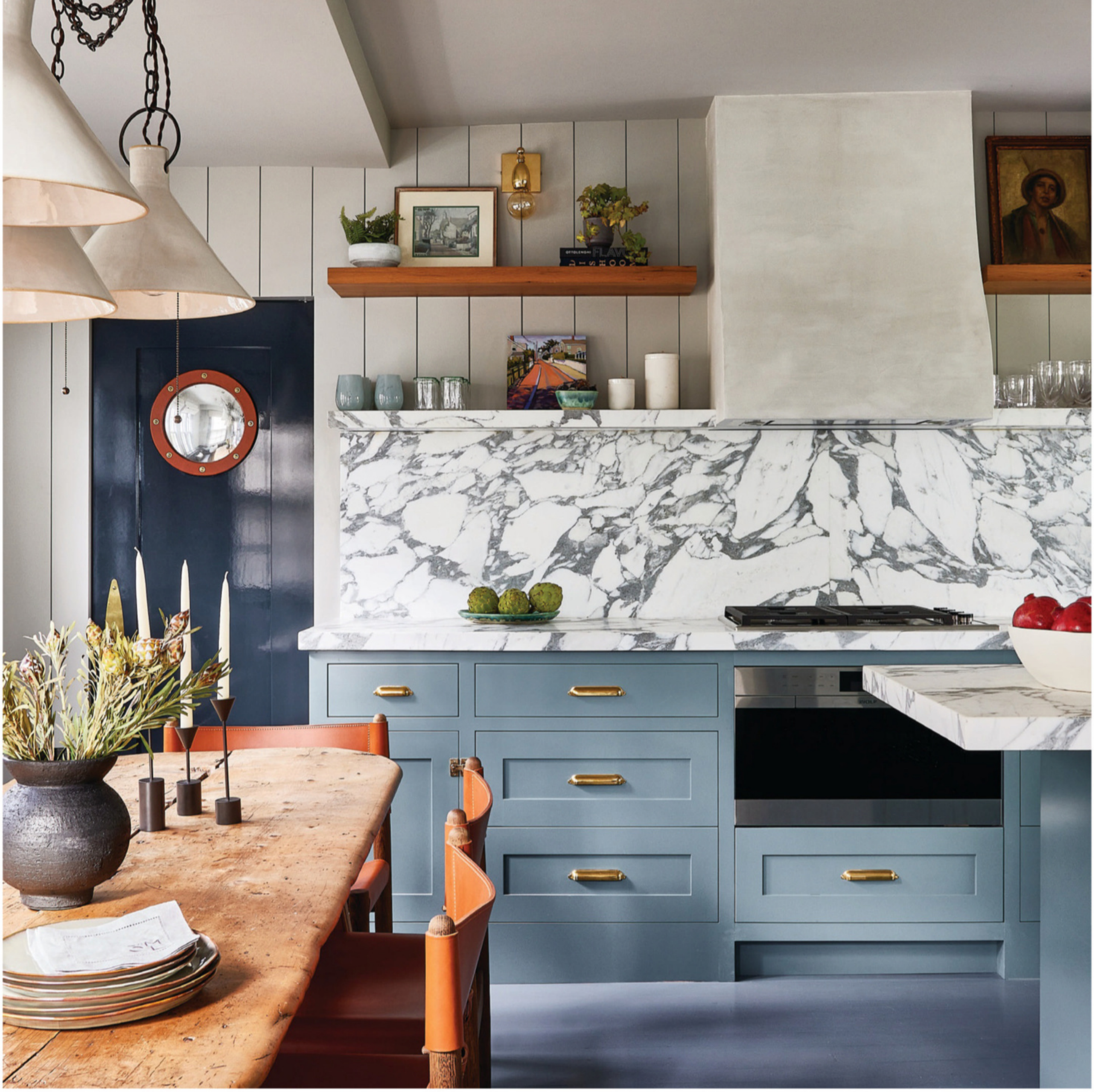
THIS PHOTO: The stair's glossy navy balusters and newel post, paired with a natural wood rail, are emblematic of the home's comfortable-meets-cosmopolitan aesthetic. A starfish-shape chandelier bridges the different angles of the keeping room ceiling. **RIGHT:** Miroslava Ahern Landscape Design Studio added plants, a fence, a gate, and brickwork around the historical shingled home. **BELOW RIGHT:** Louisana-based artist Lynn Sanders' abstract painting is a dreamy, layered wash of the home's color palette.





The cultivated elements of this 1900 Nantucket cottage conjure visions of storied characters and shifting seas.

WRITER & FIELD EDITOR **MARNI ELYSE KATZ** PHOTOGRAPHER **MATT KISIDAY**

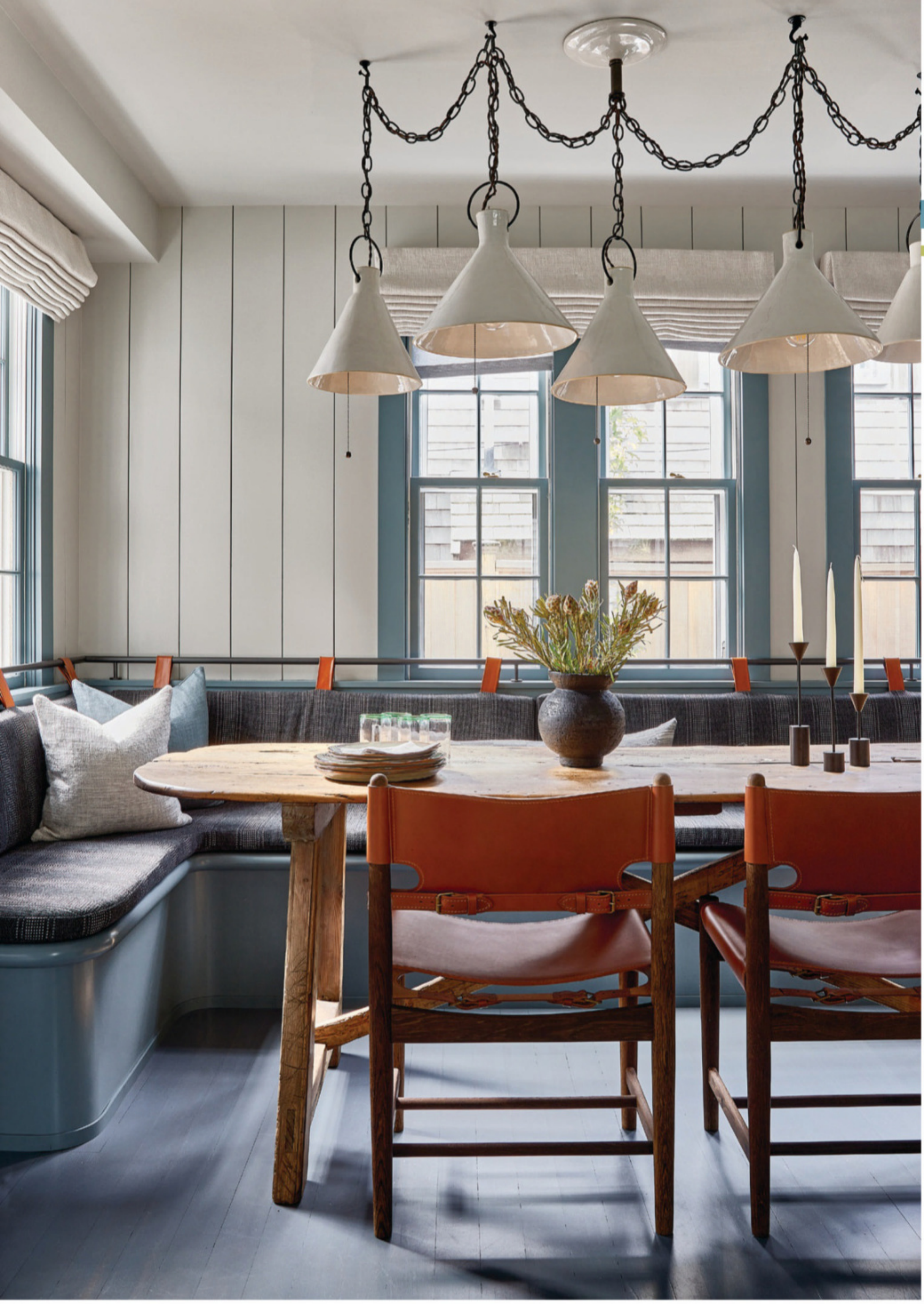


Kaitlin McQuaide's client, an Atlanta-based bachelor, spent childhood vacations along Florida's Highway 30A beaches. As an adult, he headed north for time away. After making pilgrimages to Nantucket for 25-plus years, stretching his stays from days to weeks to months, he purchased this circa-1900 cottage on a narrow lane.

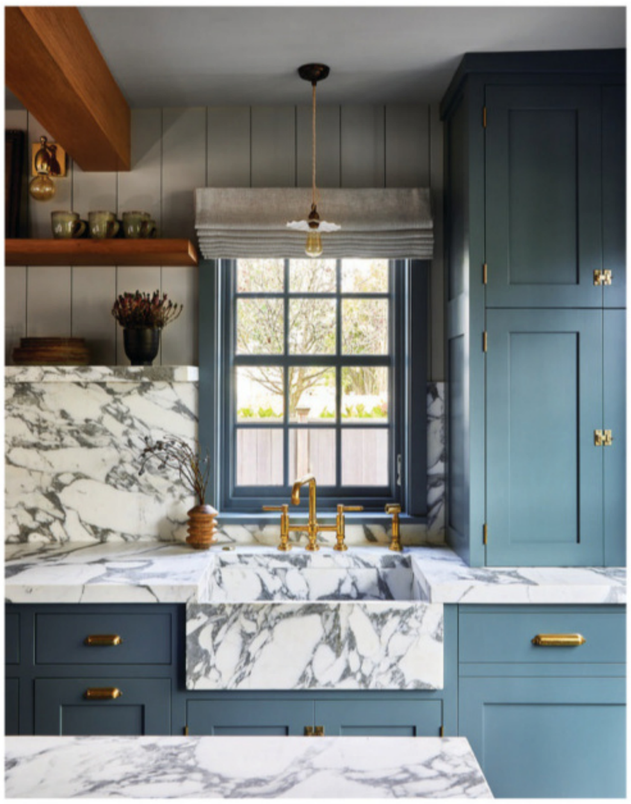
The home had interesting quirks that interior designer McQuaide and her client definitely wanted to keep; but still, the interiors were a bit bland. The pair met on site on a tempestuous, gray day to sift through swatches with hopes of achieving the mood and mix that would feel creatively stimulating to the homeowner. The colors and materials they chose echo that ever-shifting New England environment. "The palette is reminiscent of the fog and stormy sea," McQuaide says. "He's at the cottage during the off-season when you can easily imagine the ghosts of old whalers walking around."

McQuaide leaned into a moody, masculine aesthetic by layering imperfect, patinaed elements—natural wood, unlacquered brass, blackened metal, burnished leather, gritty plaster—against a brooding backdrop of green-tinged grays and soulful blues. "It's a small house with spaces that flow into each other, so everything needs to blend cohesively," she says.

Shiplap infuses beach cottage texture, its gray paint pulling it back from "farmhouse" territory. Denim blue millwork ups the cozy factor and contemporary upholstered furnishings—custom-made to nestle into the nooks and crannies of the small spaces—speak to the



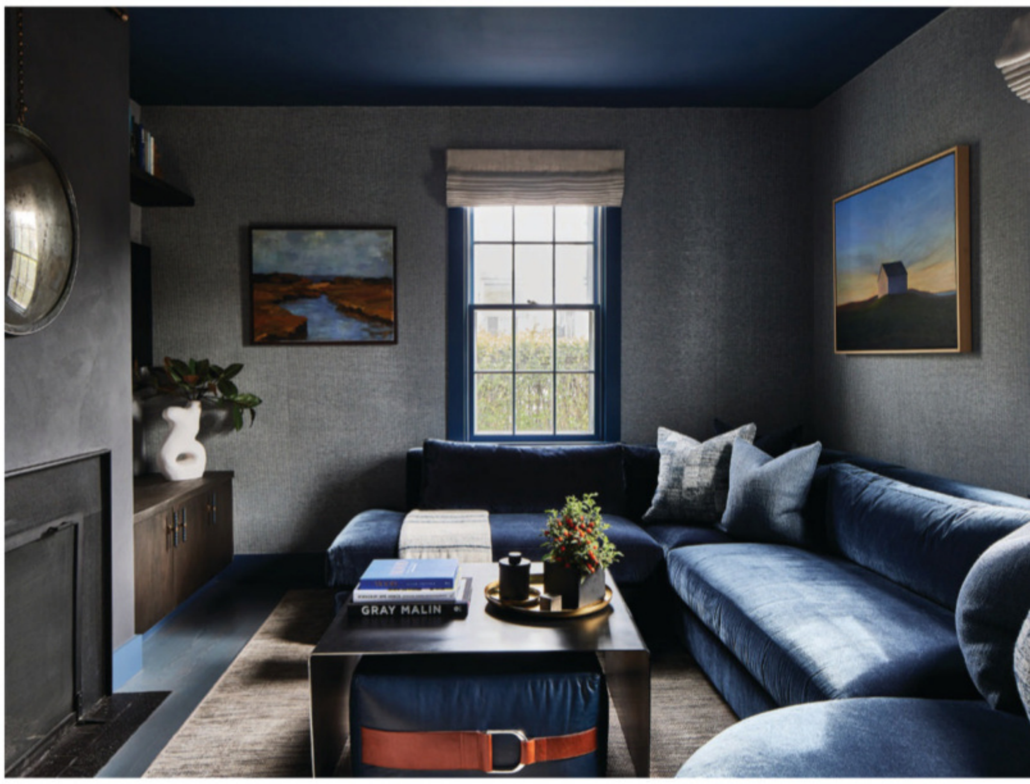
OPPOSITE: Designer Kaitlin McQuaide credits designer Steven Gambrel's work for inspiring the portholelike convex mirror with leather trim that she affixed to the door between the kitchen and laundry room. "He does historical homes so perfectly that I find myself referring to his work a lot," she says. **LEFT:** The artisanal light fixture with darkened brass chains by Natalie Page that hangs over the antique pine table is another understated nautical nod. **BELOW:** The kitchen's sculptural sink is fabricated from the same dramatic Arabescato marble as the backsplash and countertops. **BOTTOM:** A grasscloth wallcovering matches the plastered chimney in the den, where a lounge-y sectional upholstered in performance velvet feels like silk.

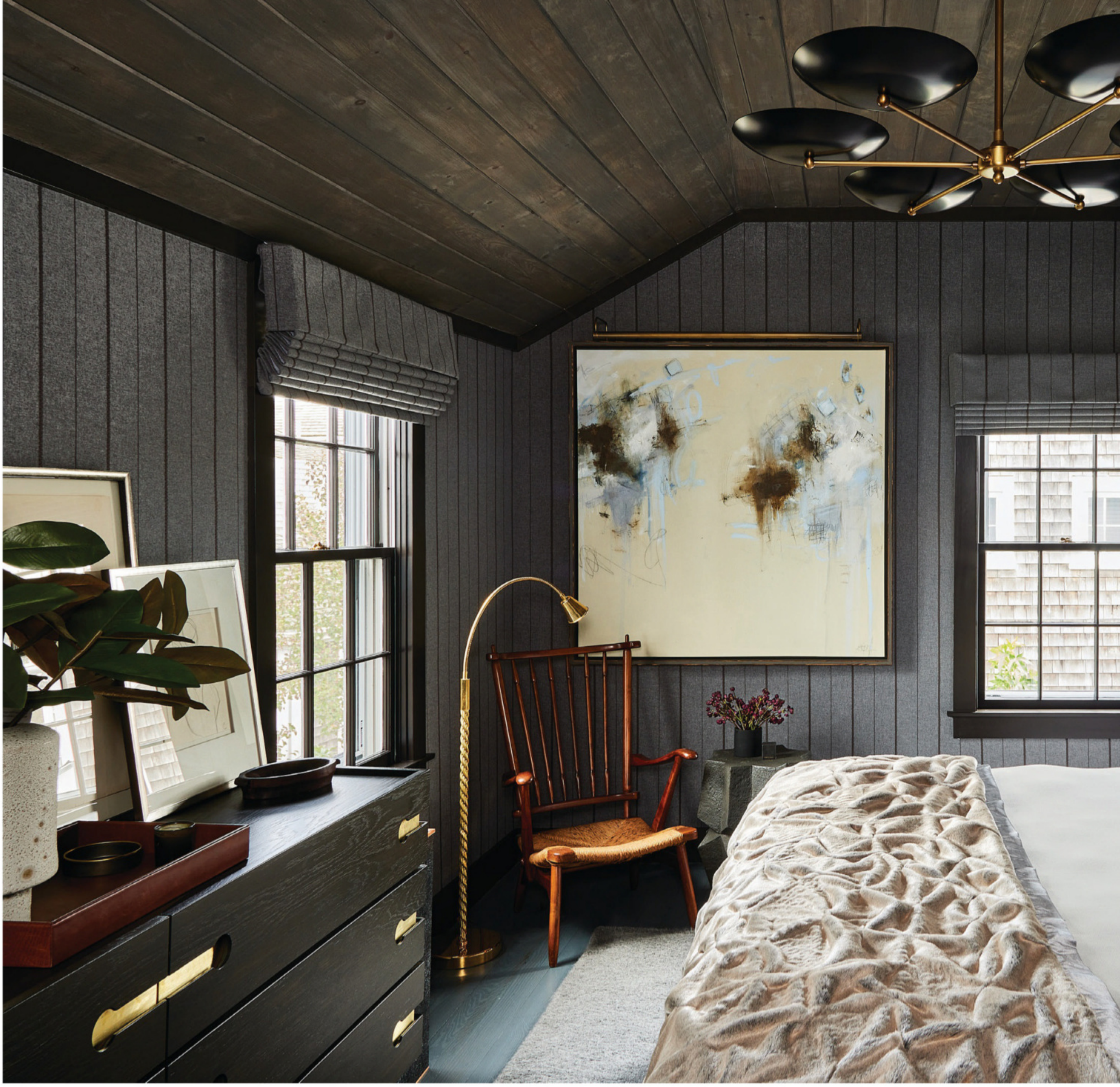


homeowner's predilection for fashion-forward design.

Slabs of chunky veined marble in the kitchen—a must-have for her client despite demanding upkeep—and doors lacquered in the darkest, glossiest navy upstairs and down are among other stylish standouts. McQuaide balances their impact at every turn, never allowing them to overwhelm. In the kitchen, there's a dinged-up pine table that the homeowner acquired at Round Top Antiques Fair in Texas, and in the den, a tarnished convex mirror on the hand-plastered chimney juxtaposes richly saturated, original artwork. The whole house is dark, warm, rich, and welcoming, just as the homeowner says he imagined.

Interior Design: *Kaitlin McQuaide, McQuaide Co.*
Contractor: *Clarke Brothers Construction*

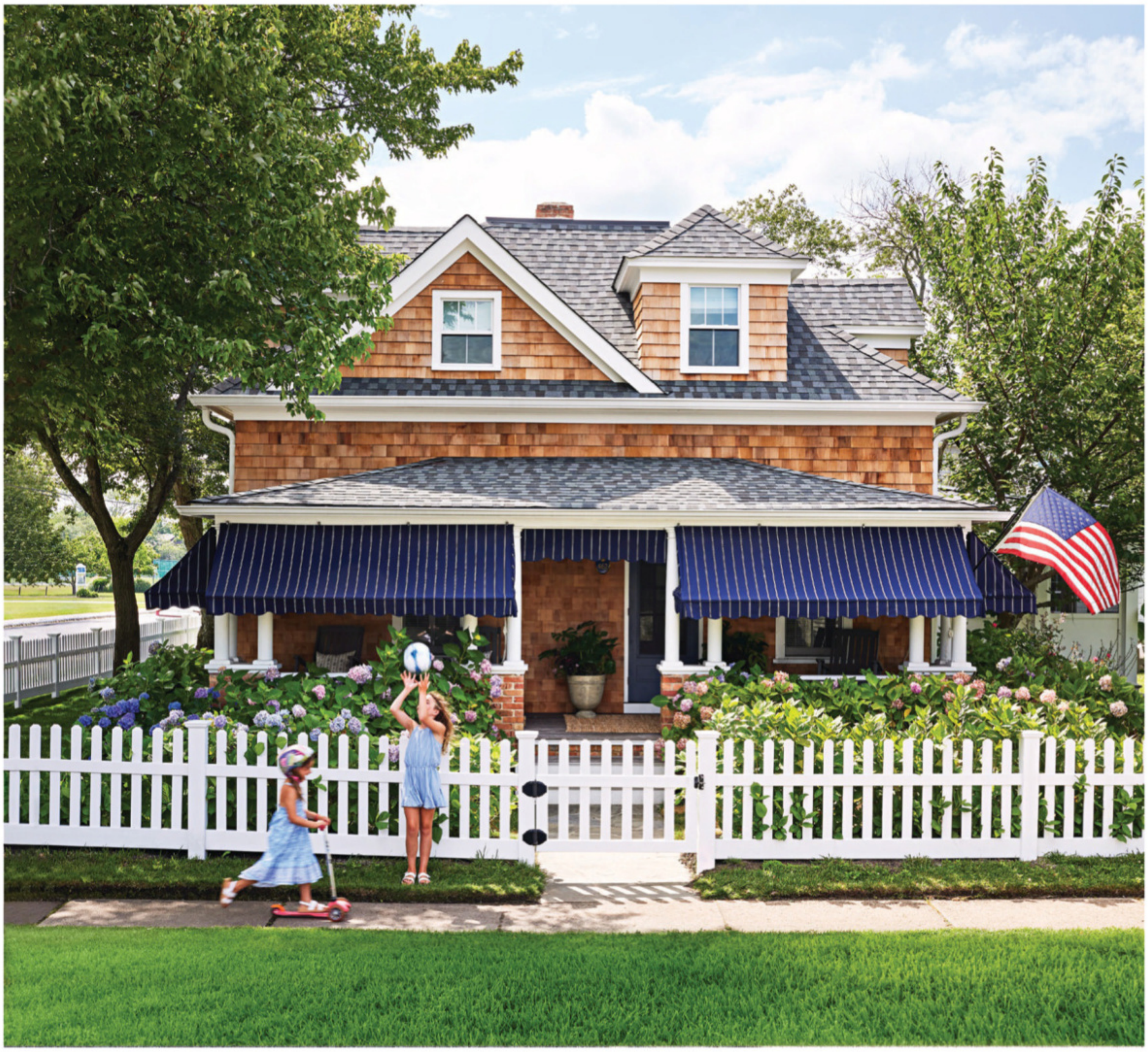




ABOVE: “We really leaned into the masculine here,” McQuaide says of the primary bedroom where a wool felt wallcovering speaks to men’s suiting. **FAR LEFT:** McQuaide designed a bed upholstered in an ombré alpaca fabric, complete with integrated sconces and nightstands, for the primary bedroom. **LEFT:** An industrial-style shower enclosure is striking against glossy sea blue tile in the guest bath. **OPPOSITE TOP:** McQuaide filled the tiny brick patio with a mix of classic and funky outdoor furniture. “I found the concrete pod chairs from a guy in France after a deep dive on Instagram,” the designer says. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** One guest room enchants with a built-in, curtained berth. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** The powder room pairs marbled wallpaper with a mid-19th-century French marble sink and a vintage Gio Ponti-style mirror.

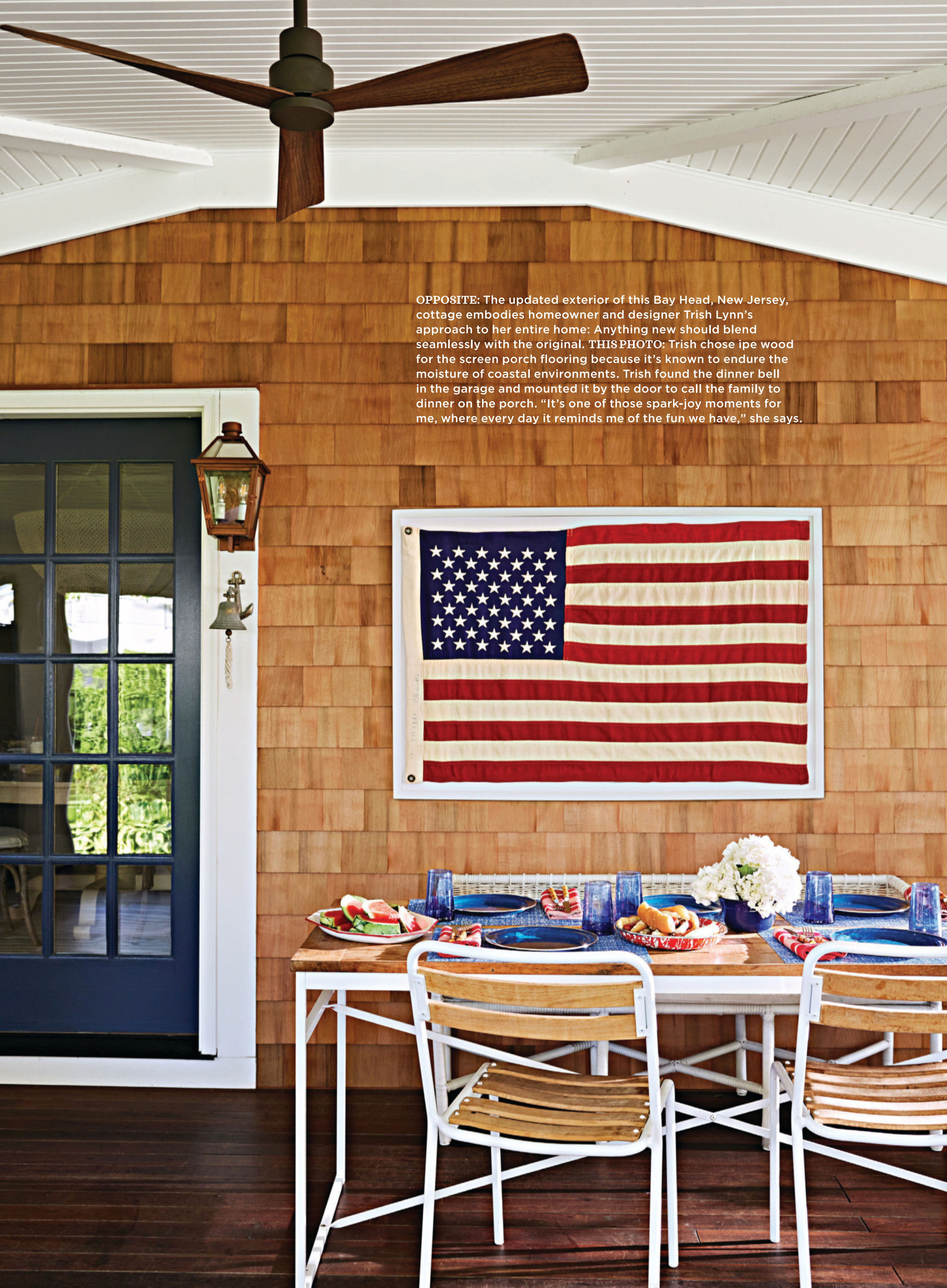
> "THIS IS A HOUSE YOU CAN BE IN ALL YEAR, WITH ITS COMFORTABLE AND COZY LAYERS."
>
> *—designer Kaitlyn McQuaide*

endless summer



A family preserves the style of their 1894 summer cottage on the Jersey Shore with a renovation designed to marry timeless charm and modern ease.

WRITER **ELENI GAGE** PHOTOGRAPHER **DAVID LAND** STYLIST **RAINA KATTELSON**
FIELD EDITOR **SARAH ALBA** PRODUCER **MONIKA BIEGLER EYERS**



OPPOSITE: The updated exterior of this Bay Head, New Jersey, cottage embodies homeowner and designer Trish Lynn's approach to her entire home: Anything new should blend seamlessly with the original. **THIS PHOTO:** Trish chose ipe wood for the screen porch flooring because it's known to endure the moisture of coastal environments. Trish found the dinner bell in the garage and mounted it by the door to call the family to dinner on the porch. "It's one of those spark-joy moments for me, where every day it reminds me of the fun we have," she says.

Trish and Rick Lynn bought this summer cottage on the Jersey Shore a decade ago as a place where they could honor their past while looking to the future. The couple had each grown up vacationing in the area, they had a 1-year-old daughter at the time, and they wanted a getaway within driving distance of their home in Hoboken. It would be a place for their young family to build a lifetime of memories, including biking to the beach and playing barefoot in the sand.

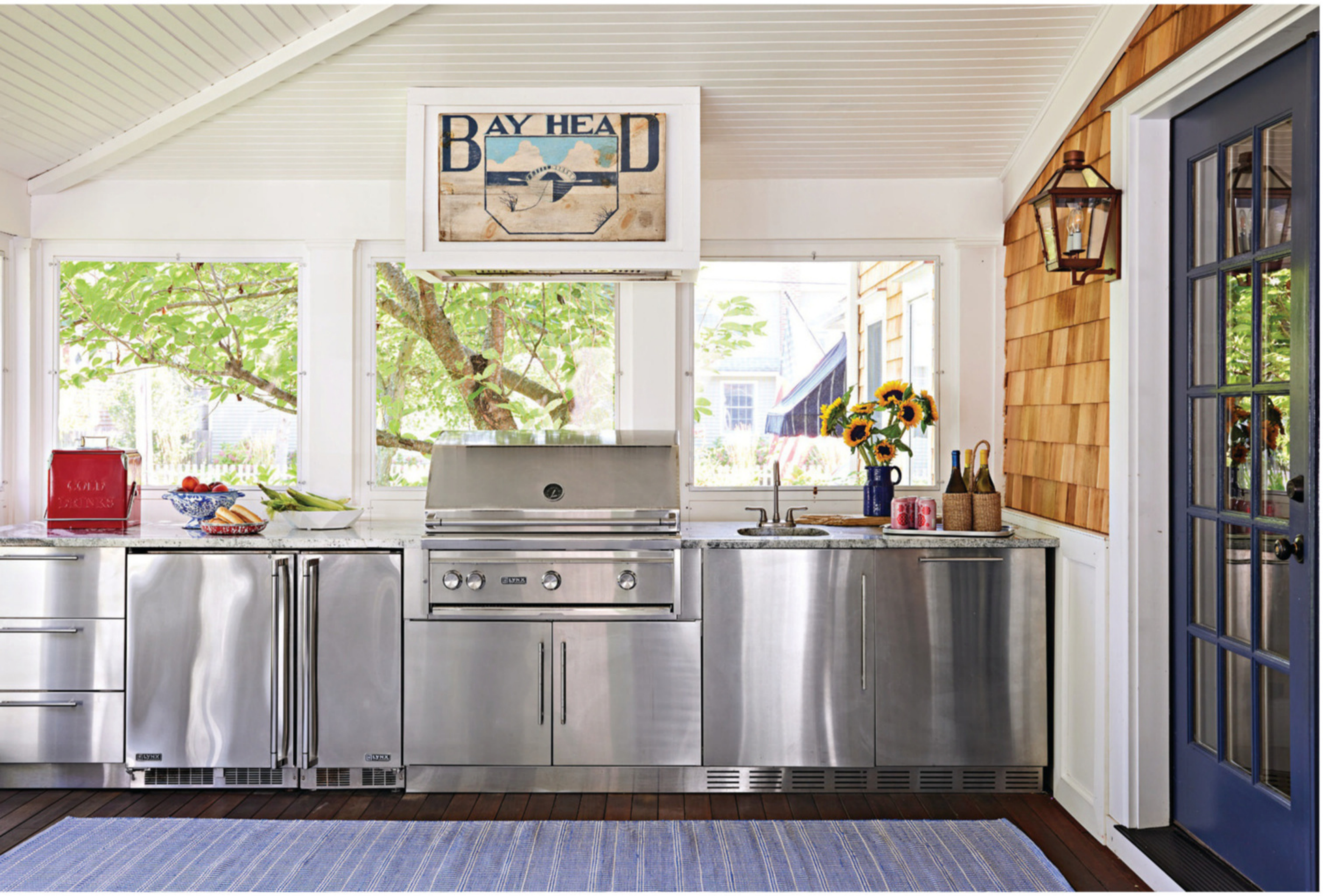
When they spotted the 1894 home with its hydrangea-filled yard sandwiched between Barnegat Bay and the Atlantic Ocean in Bay Head, "we fell in love with it immediately," says Trish, founder of Colette Interiors (on Instagram @coletteinteriors) in Chatham, New Jersey. She loved the old-house details—handmade bricks on the front porch, stained-glass windows in the family room, and a claw-foot tub in a bathroom—in what she calls the "quaint cottage." But Trish and Rick knew it would require work to make the vintage home comfortable for a modern family.

Take that claw-foot tub. "It had incredible charm but was not comfortable to shower in," Trish says. To solve that problem without throwing the bathtub out with the bathwater, they expanded the room, borrowing square footage from the primary bedroom to add a shower enclosure. The finished product, she says, has "all the updated elements married to our home's authentic charm, embracing the dormers and architectural lines of the space and originality of the tub."

That bathroom upgrade was the first of four renovation projects over a decade, as the family added a screen porch for alfresco dinners and expanded the second floor to include a primary bedroom suite. They also turned a first-floor den into a guest suite, tearing out the floors to reinforce footings underneath that would allow the room to support the addition upstairs. It was a complicated move that "actually added height to the space, which is really great for an old home," Trish says.

On the cottage exterior, Trish took cues from the previous owners, updating the awnings and the picket fence. Then she added her own imprint, covering the white wood siding with cedar shingles, which will take on a patina over time as they turn gray—some more quickly than others depending on which direction they

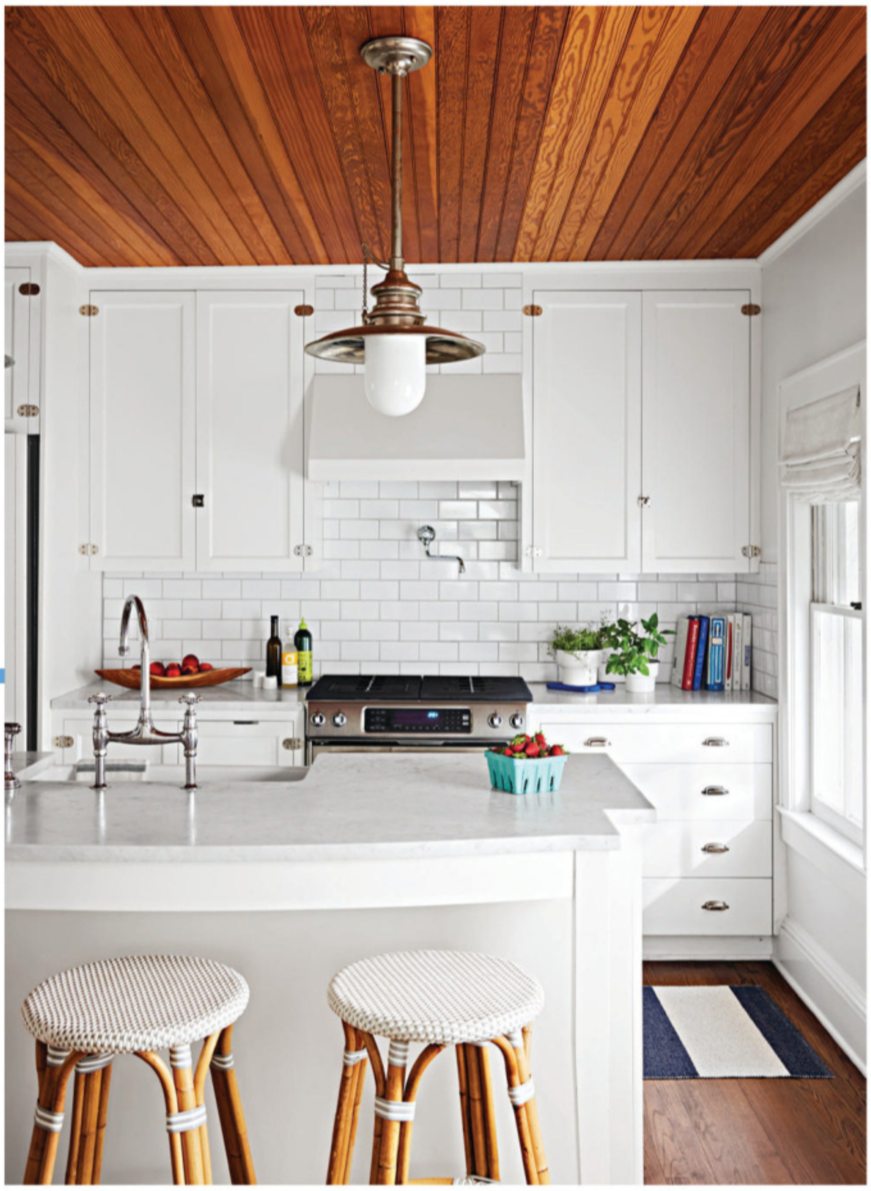
ABOVE LEFT: The living room windows, window seat, and bookcases were original to the house. To update them, Trish backed the shelves in grass cloth to match the new window seat cushion. She found the weathered wood coffee table and matching console by the stairs *(above)* at One Kings Lane. **TOP:** A peg rail holds beach bags and necessities at the ready just inside the door. The shelf serves as a place to display treasures picked up on after-dinner walks in the surf. **ABOVE:** The original banister, now ebony-stained, stands out against the walls, which are painted Benjamin Moore Simply White throughout the home.



face and how much sun they get. The new copper light fixtures will develop a patina as well. "I like the idea of a living finish," she explains.

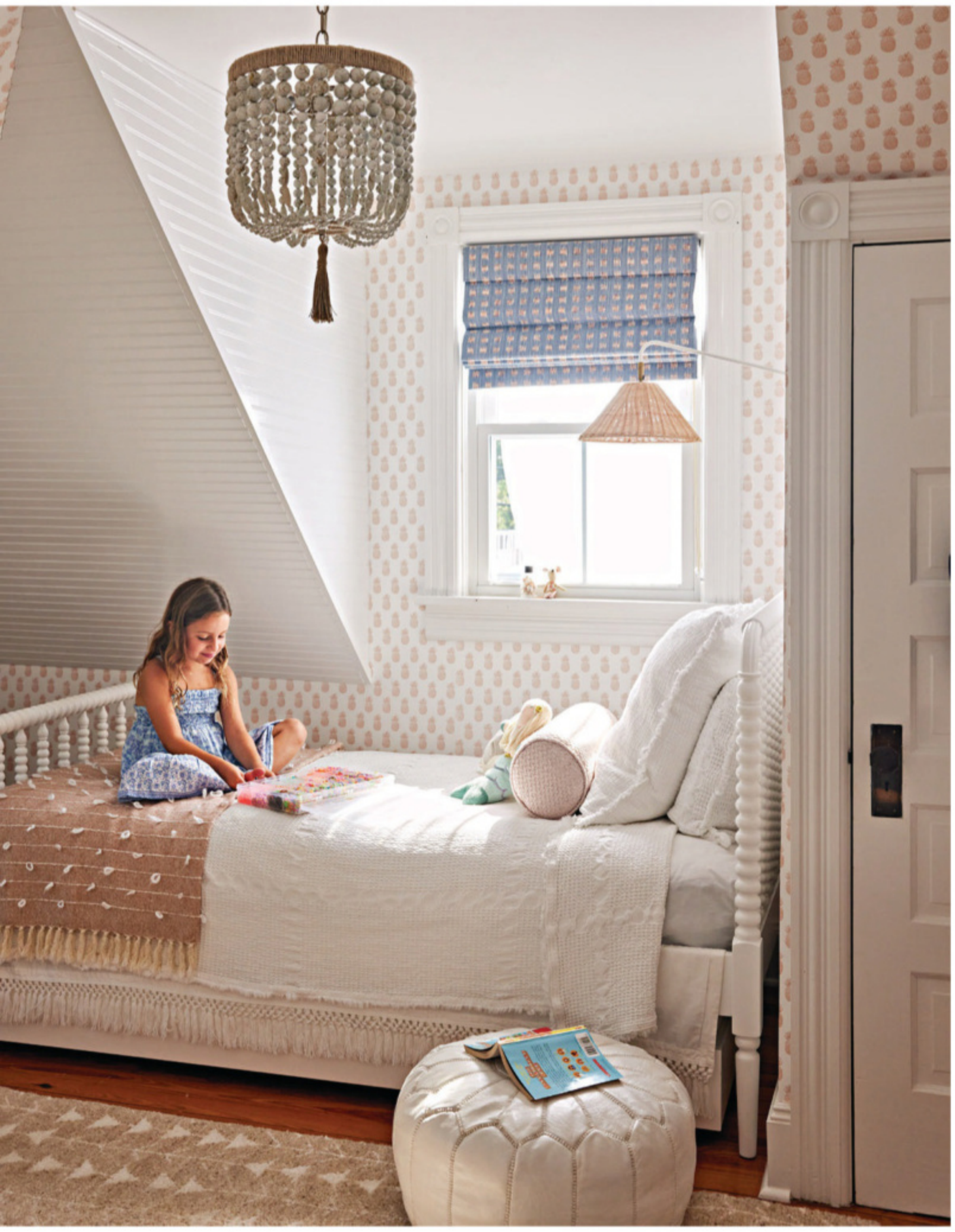
The family has grown and changed along with the home. Their oldest, Colette, now has two younger sisters, Cece and Violet. The trio spend the summers sailing, swimming, playing tennis, and hanging out with friends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. And while the family has maintained and enhanced the beauty of the home, the house has done the same for their summers. Says Trish, "It's just a beautiful life here." ⌂

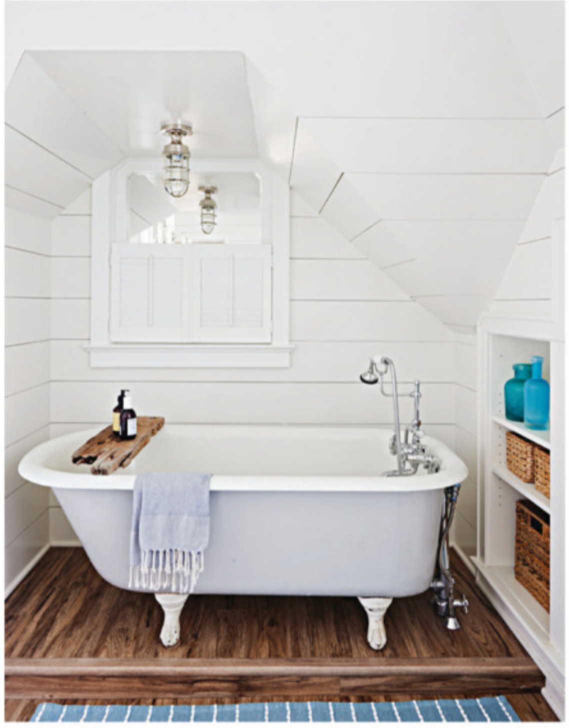
Interior Design: *Trish Lynn, Colette Interiors*

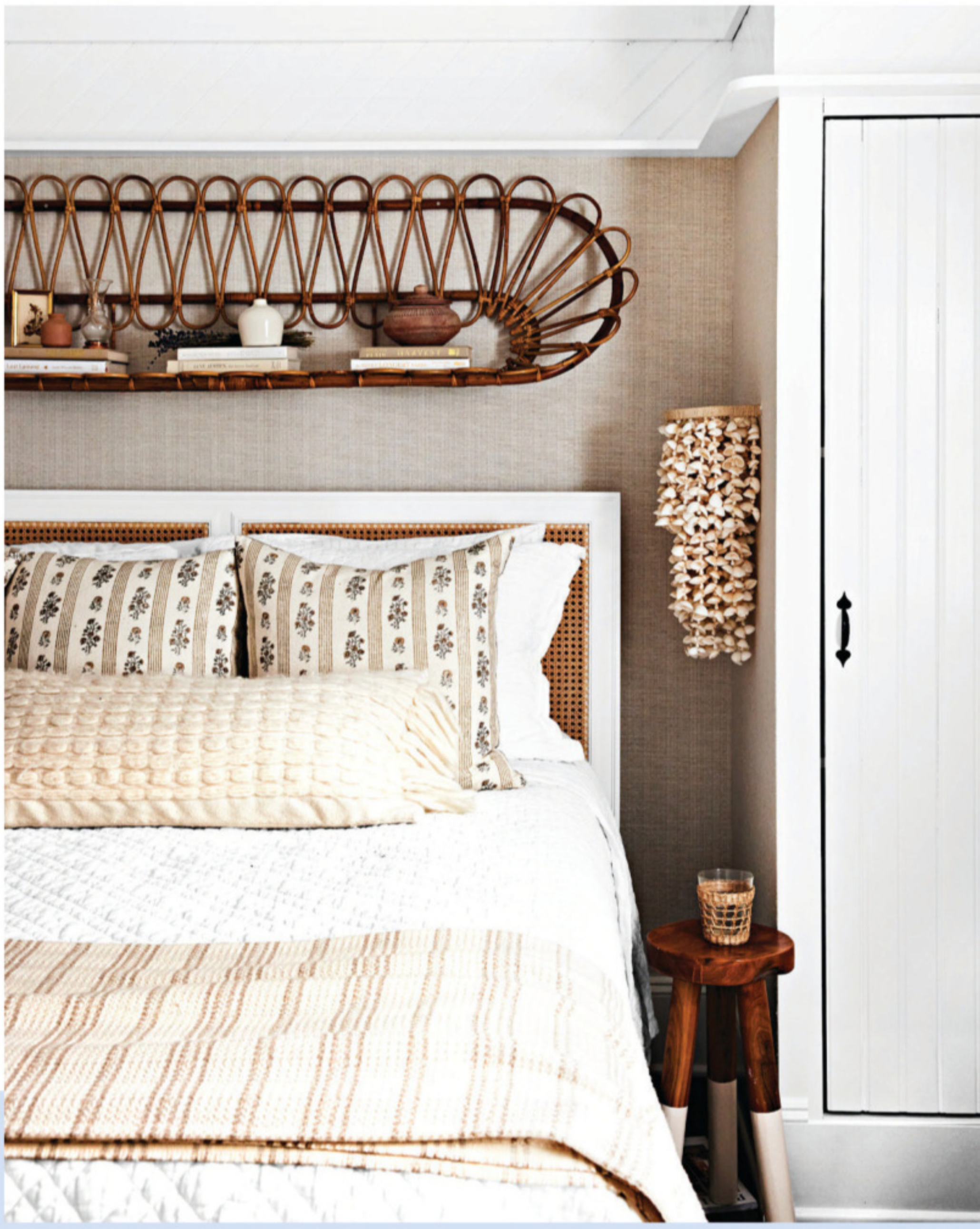


ABOVE: Adding to their summer living space, the family replaced a patio on one side of the house with a screen porch complete with an outdoor kitchen featuring a grill, fridge, and icemaker. It's where most of the cooking gets done, Trish says. **RIGHT:** Trish used beaded-board ceilings in all rooms on the main floor. The three girls perch on stools at the small kitchen island while their parents stand. They plan to make the room bigger in a future project. **OPPOSITE:** "My idea was to make the dining room elegant but approachable and kid-friendly," Trish says. There's a nubby grass cloth on the walls, a woven wood-and-coco-bead light fixture above the wipeable table, kidproof performance fabric on the chairs, and a low-pile rug that she says is soft and durable.

> “THIS LITTLE COTTAGE IS OUR HAPPY PLACE. WE SPEND THE ENTIRE SUMMER OUT HERE WITH OUR GIRLS. MY FAVORITE THING TO DO IS SIT ON THE SCREEN PORCH AND ENTERTAIN FRIENDS AND FAMILY.” *—homeowner Trish Lynn*





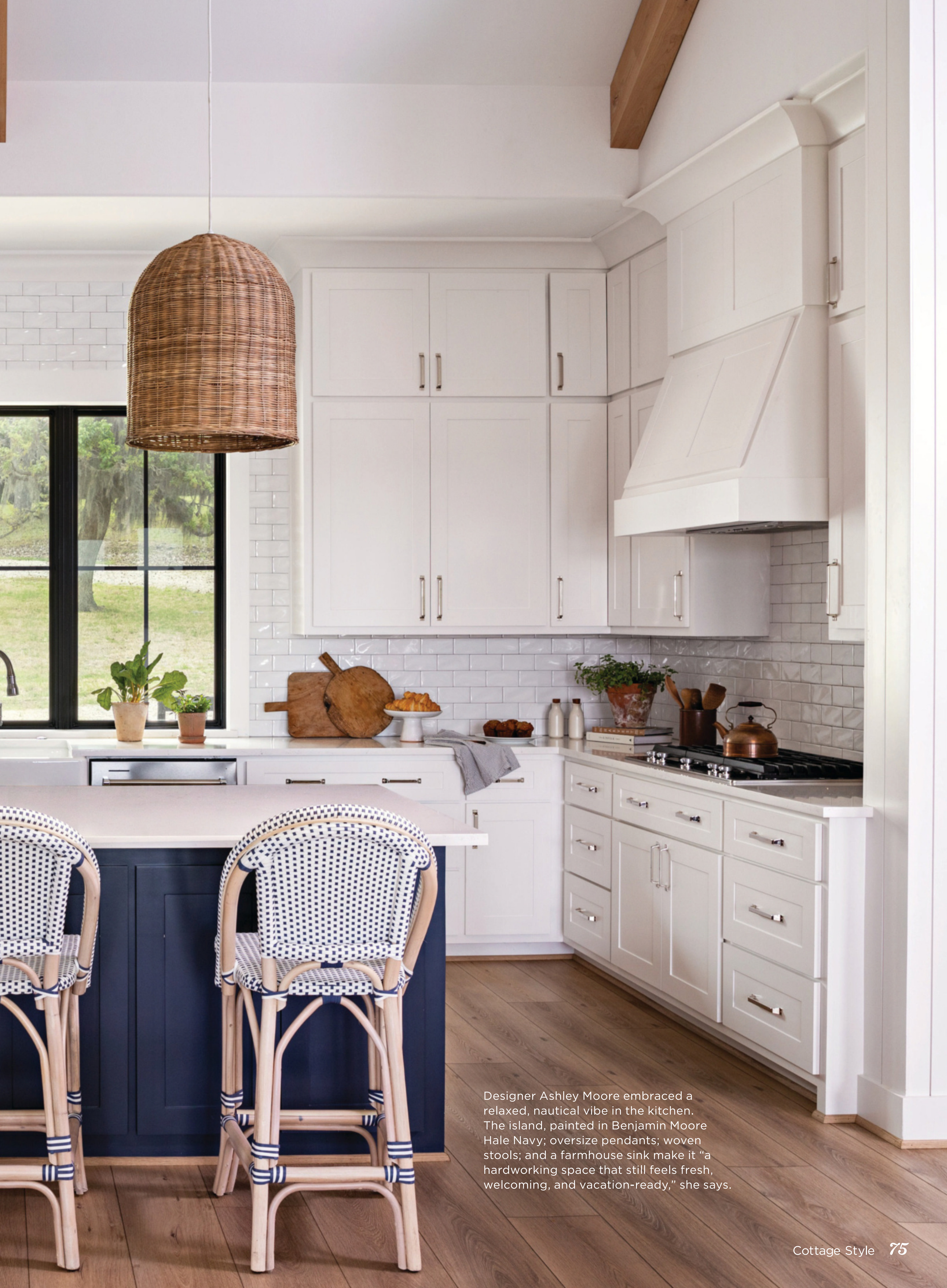


TOP & ABOVE LEFT: Violet sleeps on a spindle bed in a room with pineapple-print wallpaper. The light fixture above the bed is fabulous but not functional. “One of my design hacks is to hang light fixtures that aren’t wired where I don’t really need a light. I just think it looks cool,” Trish says. **TOP RIGHT:** The claw-foot tub rests on a platform with a gentle slope to improve drainage. The faucet and hardware were original. “The tub sits right in a dormer, pretty perfectly,” Trish says. She added the Nantucket Lightshop pendant. **ABOVE RIGHT:** “For me, the guest room is all about the layering of the textures,” Trish says. The grass-cloth wallcovering, cane headboard, and shell sconces have varied natural surfaces. The airy rattan shelf from Urban Outfitters brings a sculptural quality.

stylishly SIMPLE

A Texas designer leans into the adage that "less is more" to craft a young family's lakefront retreat.

WRITER **KHRISTI ZIMMETH**
PHOTOGRAPHER **JULIE SOEFER**
STYLIST **JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM**



Designer Ashley Moore embraced a relaxed, nautical vibe in the kitchen. The island, painted in Benjamin Moore Hale Navy; oversize pendants; woven stools; and a farmhouse sink make it “a hardworking space that still feels fresh, welcoming, and vacation-ready,” she says.

TOP: A custom stuccolike finish with a soft gray tint gives the living room fireplace a subtle contrast against white walls. Deep blue behind the bookshelves echoes the nearby kitchen and adds cohesion and warmth. **LEFT:** Designed with practicality in mind, the mudroom handles everything—especially days at the lake and pool parties, Moore says. Hooks for towels and bags corral clutter while ample cabinetry stores water toys, games, and seasonal items in style. **ABOVE:** The home's simple exterior lets the natural setting shine. Minimal landscaping complements the home's unfussy feel. **OPPOSITE:** Simple and understated, the dining room makes a big impact, Moore says. A linen-wrapped console is topped with navy textured lamps and woven wall art.

Texas may be known for its big heart and its Hill Country, but the Lone Star State's lakes are pretty special too. The young family who owns this getaway on Lake Livingston—one of the largest bodies of water in the state—had long dreamed of their own waterfront retreat, and they jumped at the chance to make that dream a reality.

Their goal, designer Ashley Moore of Moore House Interiors says, was a place where they could relax and make memories. "From the start, they wanted it to feel like fun," she explains. A veteran of second homes designed in the popular "neutral, Hill Country-modern style," Moore says she was excited to infuse the updated farmhouse-style home with primary colors and a lighthearted feel. "They wanted bold, so we embraced it," she says. "Color choices throughout the house bring energy and personality."

Designed for gathering, the 5,000-square-foot home features big open spaces appropriate to its Texas locale, including a dining area with comfy seating for game nights, and plenty of room to host friends and family. "I wanted it to feel playful, but still warm and welcoming—a place you look forward to going back to," the designer says. "The main focus was making the most of those incredible lake views wherever we could."

She purposely kept the decor simple and intentional, adding natural textures such as wood, jute, and woven elements to warm up modern finishes in public spaces as well as the six bedrooms and baths. "We leaned into vibrant hues and pulled back on the accessories," Moore says. "The whole house is playful and totally fitting for a young, energetic family," she adds.

Also fitting is the use of low-maintenance materials like waterproof vinyl plank flooring and performance fabrics that make cleanup a breeze. "When it comes to vacation homes, especially lake houses, I always prioritize durability and function," Moore says. "Wet feet and outdoor traffic are part of the lifestyle."

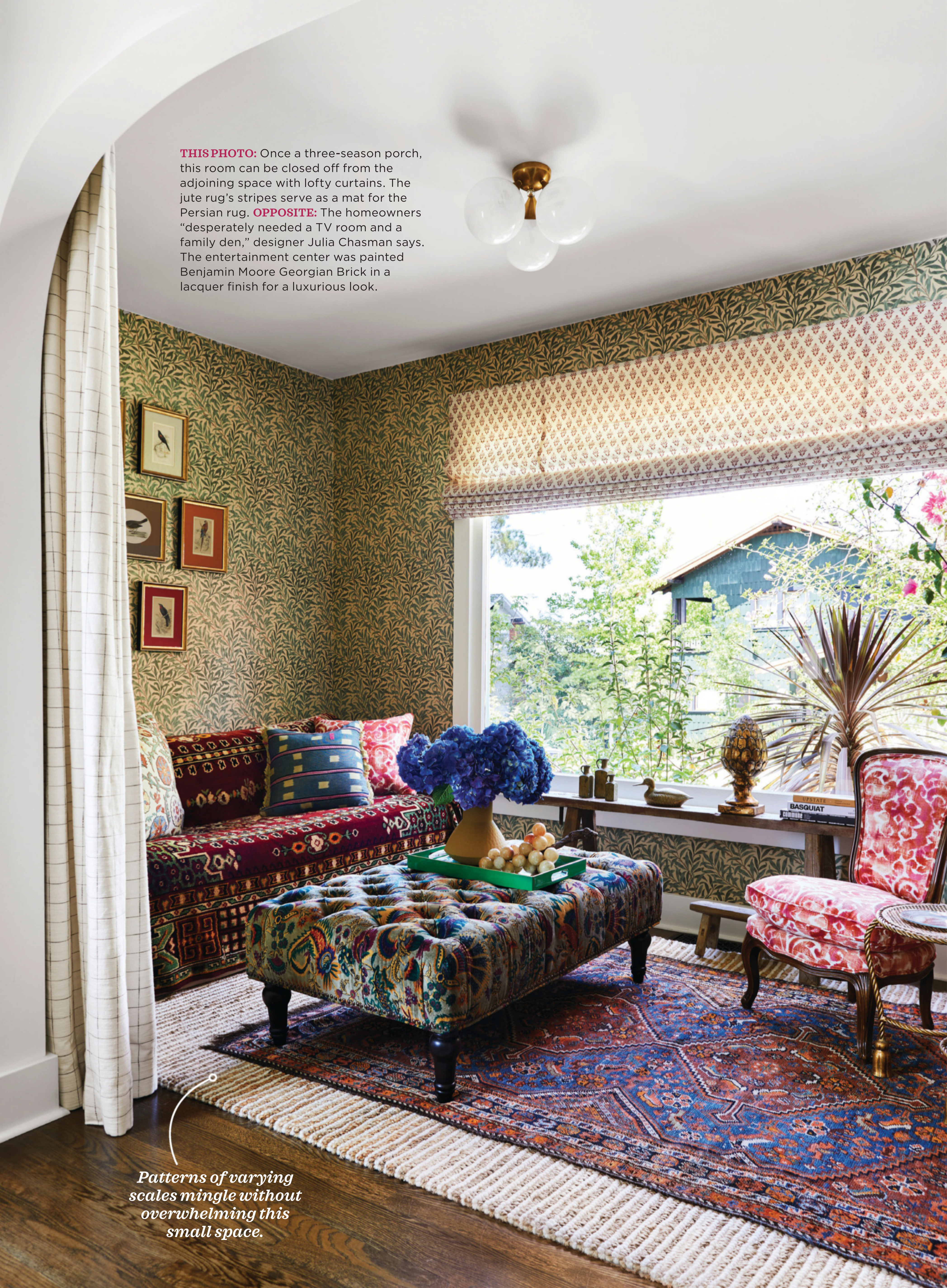
The house, she says, "invites you in with open arms." And the experience of mornings on the lake is one not to miss. "It is truly special. The stillness of the water, the light dancing across the lake—it's peaceful, calm, and just so grounding. You can feel life slow down."

Interior Design: *Ashley Moore, Moore House Interiors*

RIGHT: The hats on the guest room wall were a last-minute idea but are one of the team's favorite design elements, Moore says. **BELOW:** Light blue wallpaper and round mirrors in the bunk room bath give the room a nautical touch. **BOTTOM:** "The bunk room is all about fun—and capacity," the designer says. Some beds include pull-out trundles, allowing the room to host up to 10. **FAR RIGHT:** The outdoor room was designed for conversation and comfort as well as entertainment. "Whether grilling out, watching the game, or enjoying sunset views over the lake, it's the kind of space that brings people together," Moore says.

“FEWER SURFACES TO DUST, LESS CLUTTER TO MANAGE—IN A SECOND HOME, **SIMPLICITY IS A GIFT.”**

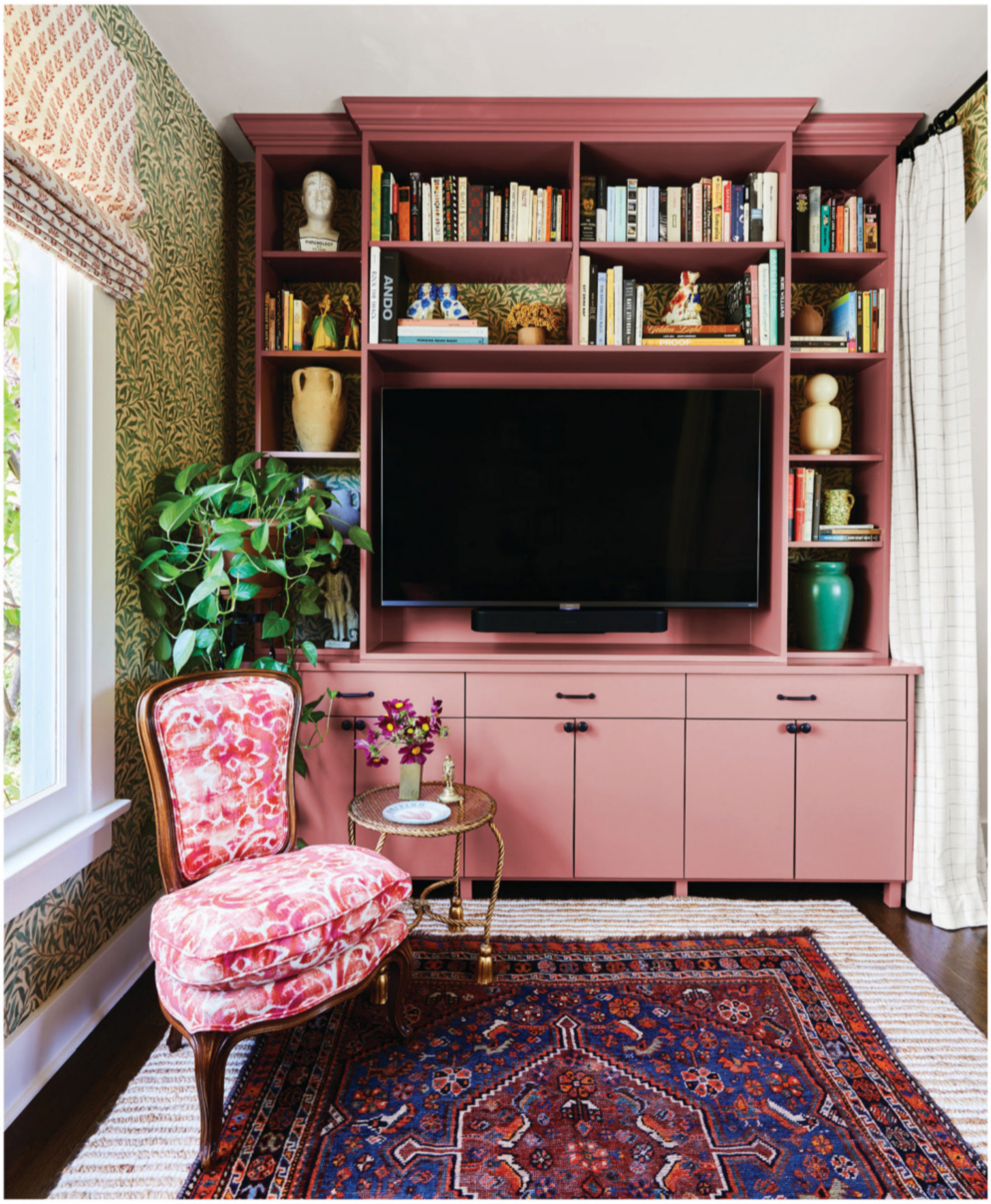
—designer Ashely Moore



THIS PHOTO: Once a three-season porch, this room can be closed off from the adjoining space with lofty curtains. The jute rug's stripes serve as a mat for the Persian rug. **OPPOSITE:** The homeowners "desperately needed a TV room and a family den," designer Julia Chasman says. The entertainment center was painted Benjamin Moore Georgian Brick in a lacquer finish for a luxurious look.

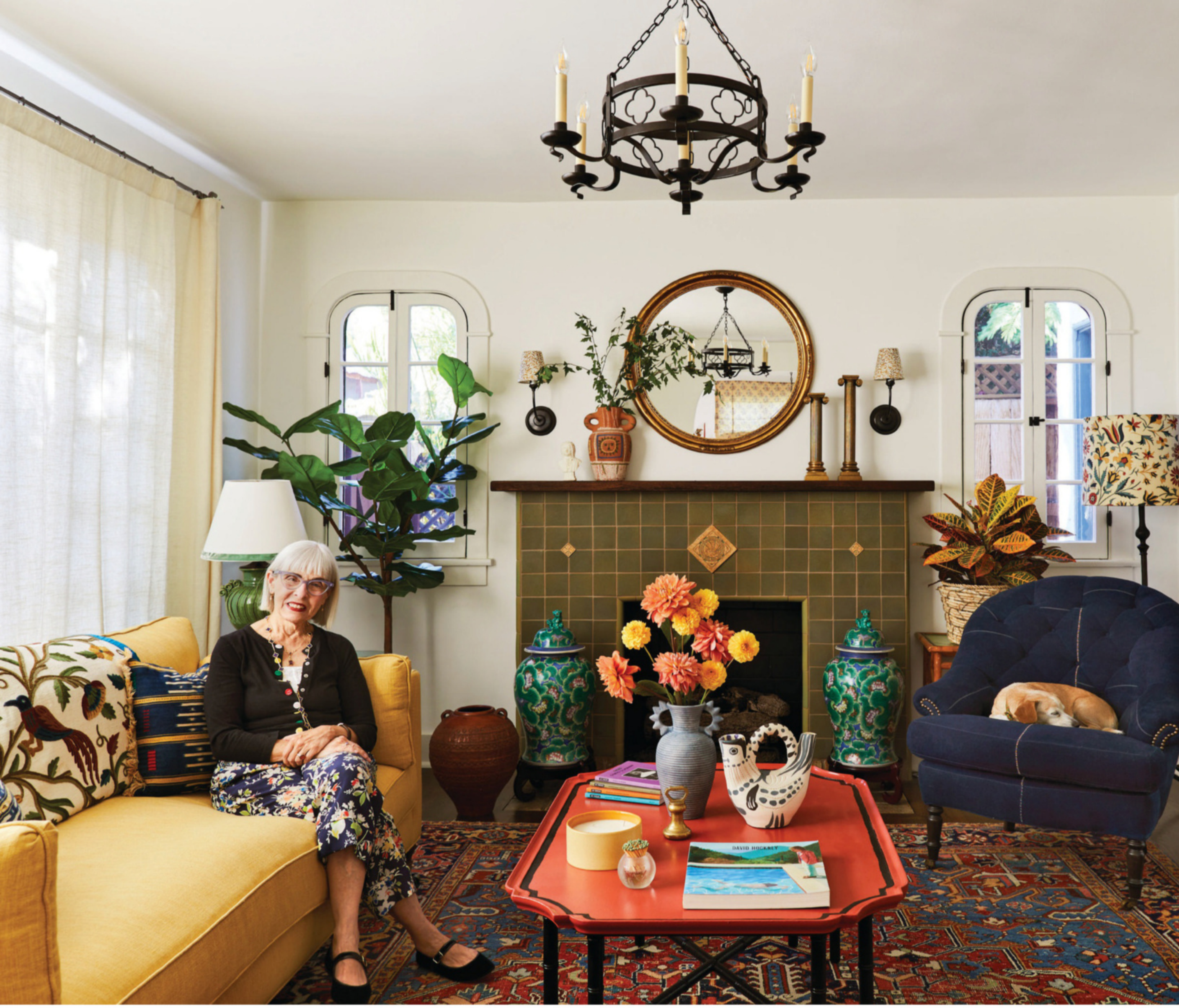
Patterns of varying scales mingle without overwhelming this small space.

SCENE STEALER



This California home packs electric personality into a small footprint by mixing rich patterns and muted primary colors.

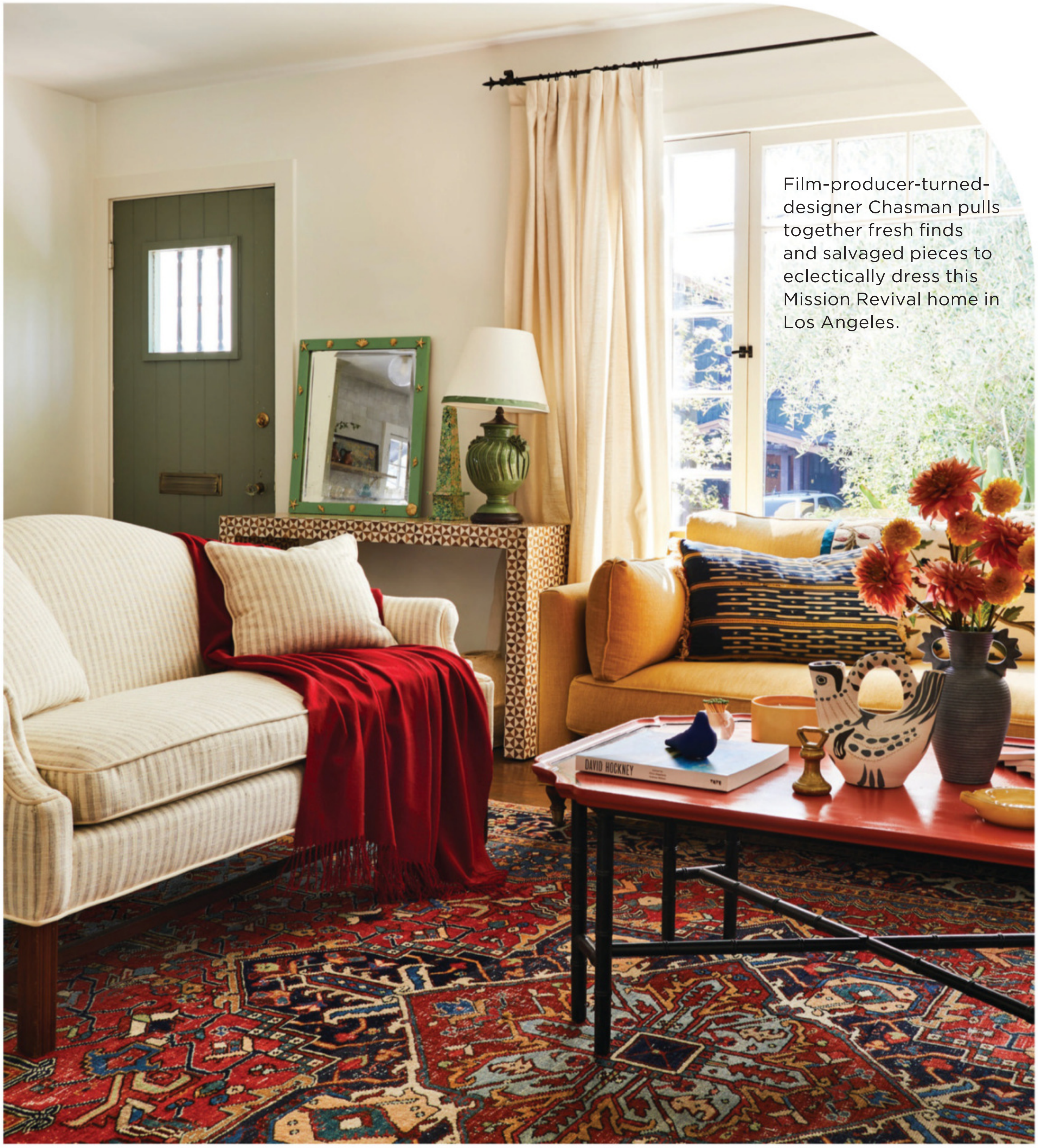
WRITER **BRIANNE SANCHEZ** PHOTOGRAPHER **SARA LIGORRIA-TRAMP**
STYLIST **EMILY BOWSER** FIELD EDITOR **ANDREA NORDSTROM CAUGHEY**



"WITH OLDER HOMES YOU START AHEAD OF THE GAME."

—designer Julia Chasman

ABOVE & RIGHT: Chasman (on Instagram @juliachasmandesign) added green tiles from California-based Arto and a few Batchelder reproduction accents to the refurbished fireplace in this California home. The walls wear a crisp coat of Benjamin Moore Simply White, while a higher sheen of the brand's slightly warmer White Dove highlights the trim.



Film-producer-turned-designer Chasman pulls together fresh finds and salvaged pieces to eclectically dress this Mission Revival home in Los Angeles.

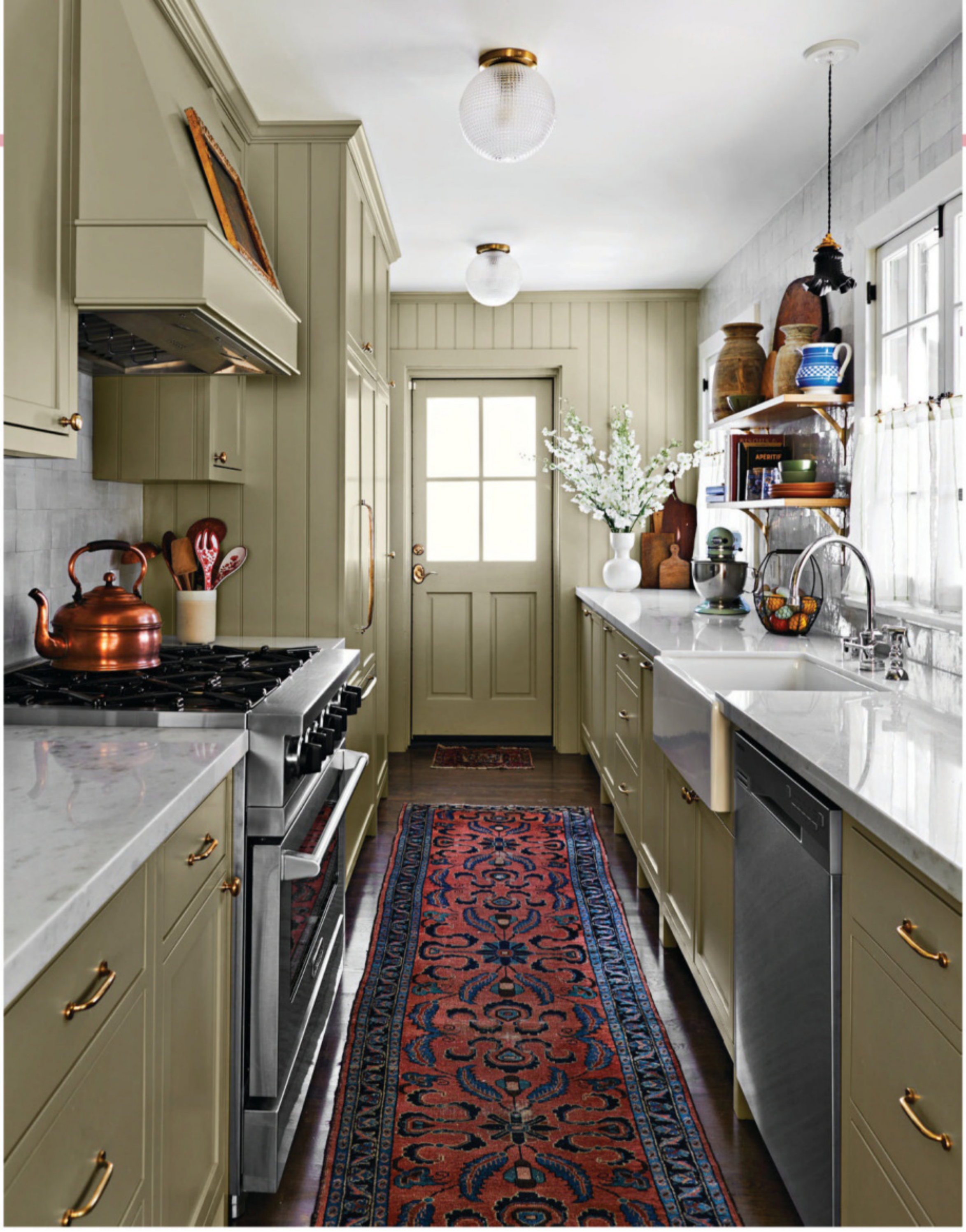
Even before her clients called on her talents, designer Julia Chasman detected star potential in their 1930s home. Chasman walked through the Mission Revival charmer, located around the block from her own home in Los Angeles' Eagle Rock neighborhood, when it was last on the market. A former film producer who found her second act as a designer, Chasman saw helping her new neighbors reimagine their home as a continuation of her life's greatest passion. "In filmmaking, I was finding stories and then figuring out how best to tell them," she says. "In the home space, I find it's much the same."

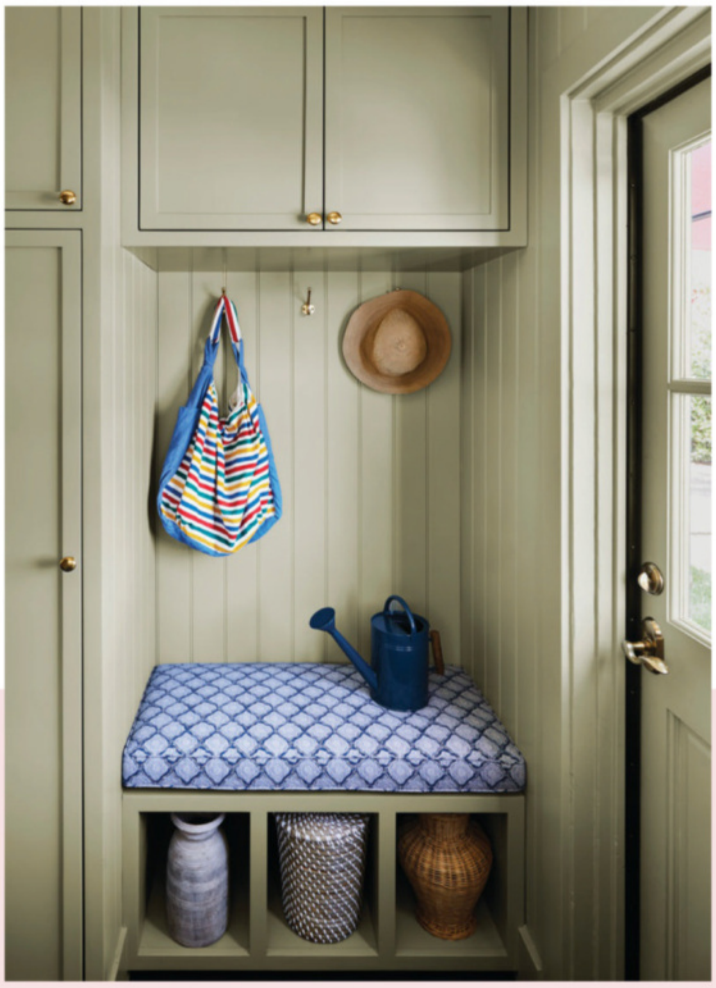
This home's next chapter needed to serve a Hollywood book scout, his wife, and their young daughter. Original architectural elements like casement windows and arches remained intact and set the tone for a layered interior design. But Chasman felt the layout was chopped up into "tiny, claustrophobic spaces," she says. She widened the galley kitchen, relocated the laundry, and added a bathroom and windows. Expanding the openings between rooms and installing hardwood flooring throughout also eased the flow.

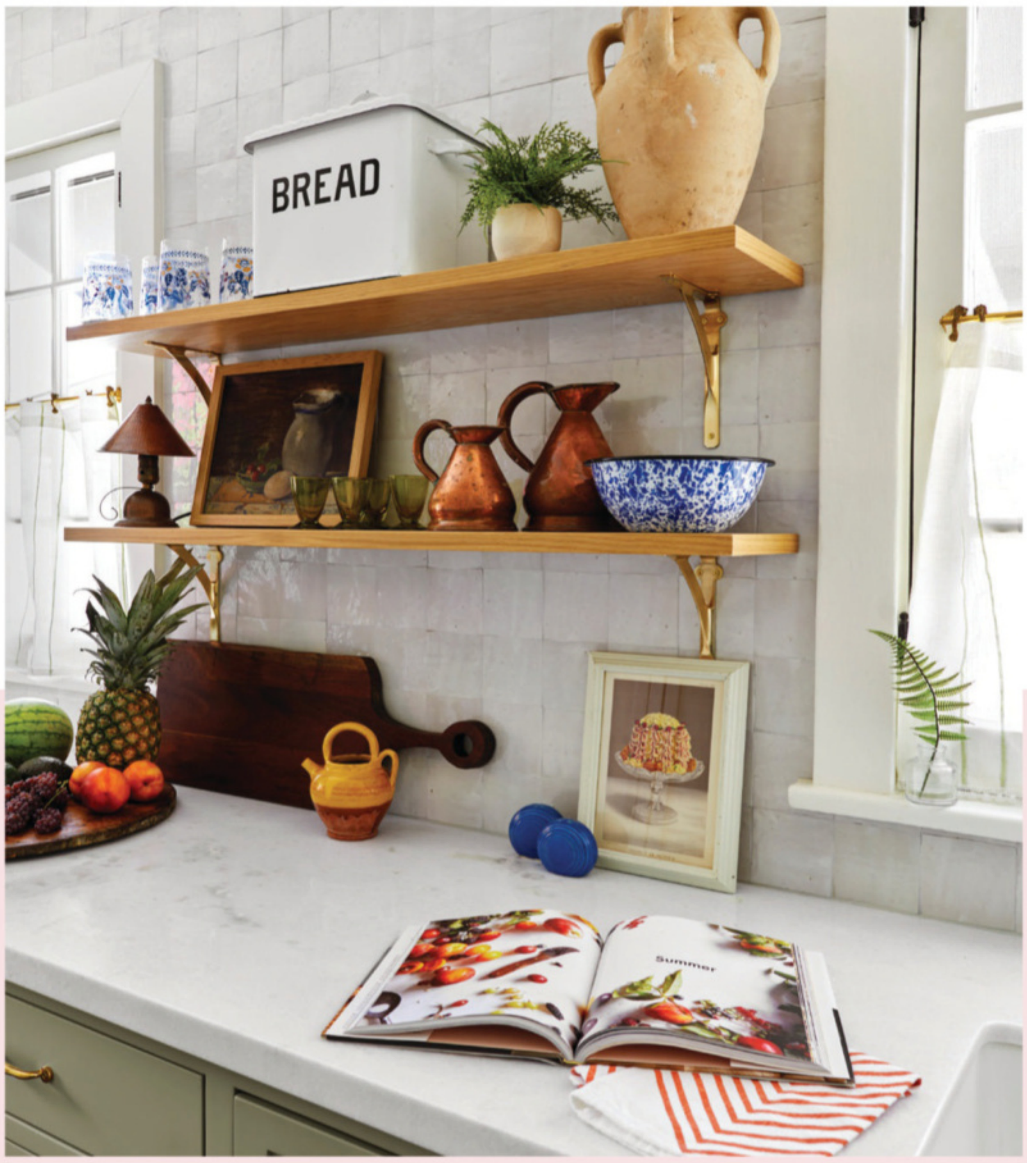
Chasman's approach to decorating rooms with contemporary art, vintage pieces, ceramics, and fabrics helps achieve a collected atmosphere in even the new spaces. Patterned wallpaper, Persian rugs, and hand-painted tile personalize the home. "With older homes, you start ahead of the game in your layering," Chasman says. "It's already got a soul."

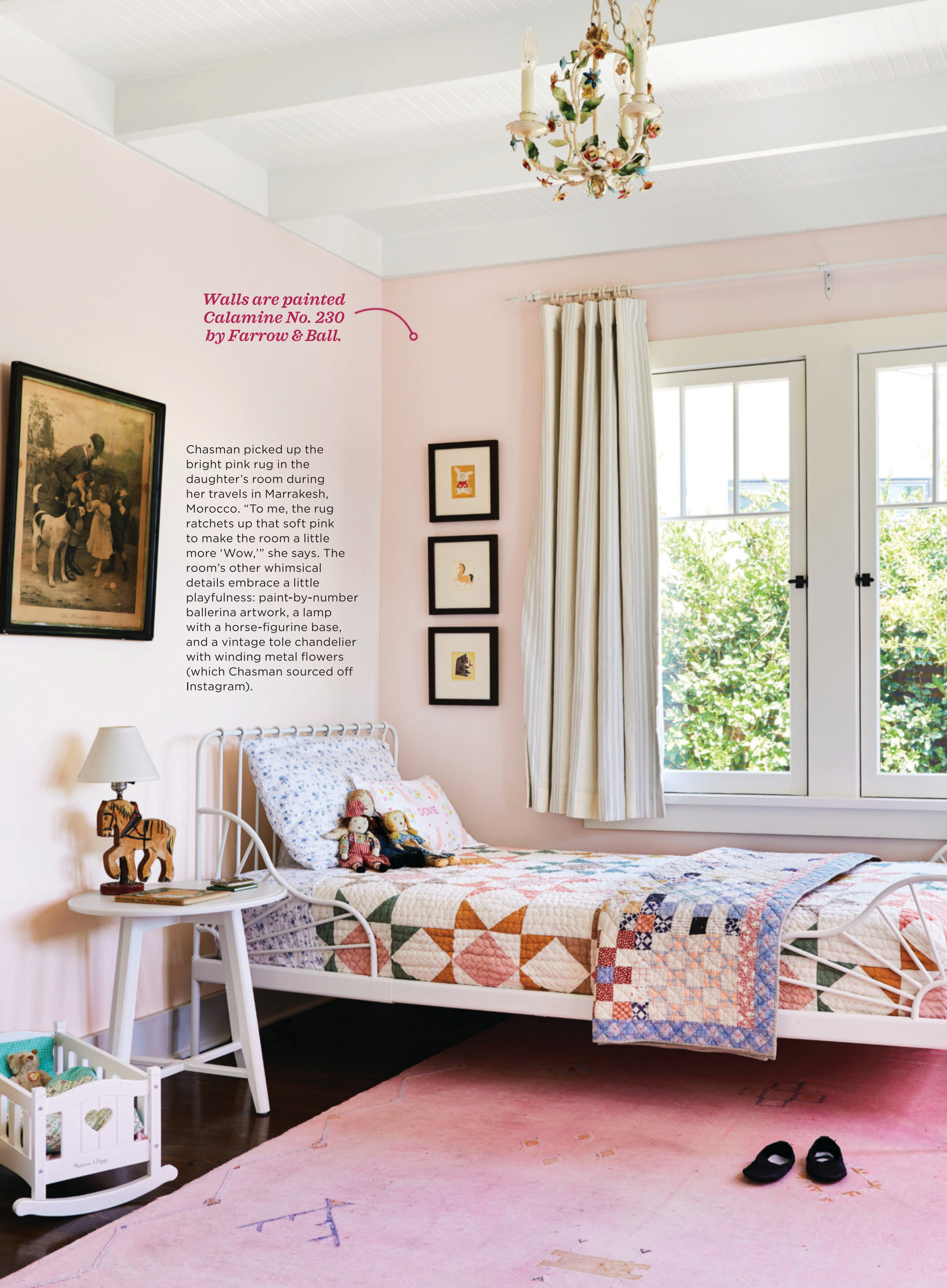
Interior Design: *Julia Chasman Design*

OPPOSITE: The simple wooden table comes from Los Angeles designers Todd Nickey and Amy Kehoe's collection, Nickey Kehoe. Chasman painted the shades of the Egyptian chandelier a dark coral color. **RIGHT:** In contrast to the deep colors and moody vibe of the den, the kitchen (as well as the dining area) is much more neutral. Nantucket Gray by Benjamin Moore suits the narrow galley, where the green undertones stand out against quartzite natural stone countertops in a cloudy grain. **BELOW:** At the kitchen door a small built-in bench and surrounding cabinets and cubbies offer space for kicking off shoes and stashing bags. **BELOW RIGHT:** The galley kitchen benefits from the feeling of openness created by Chasman's choice of shelves instead of upper cabinets between windows along the sink wall.



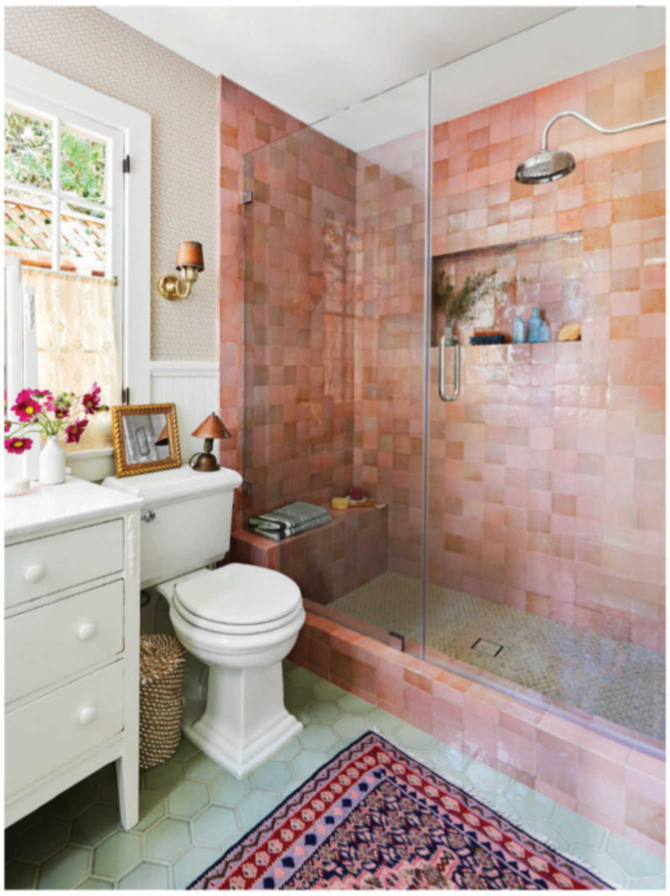


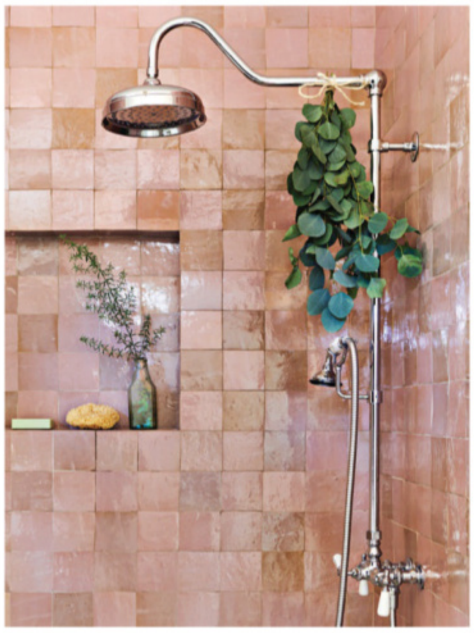


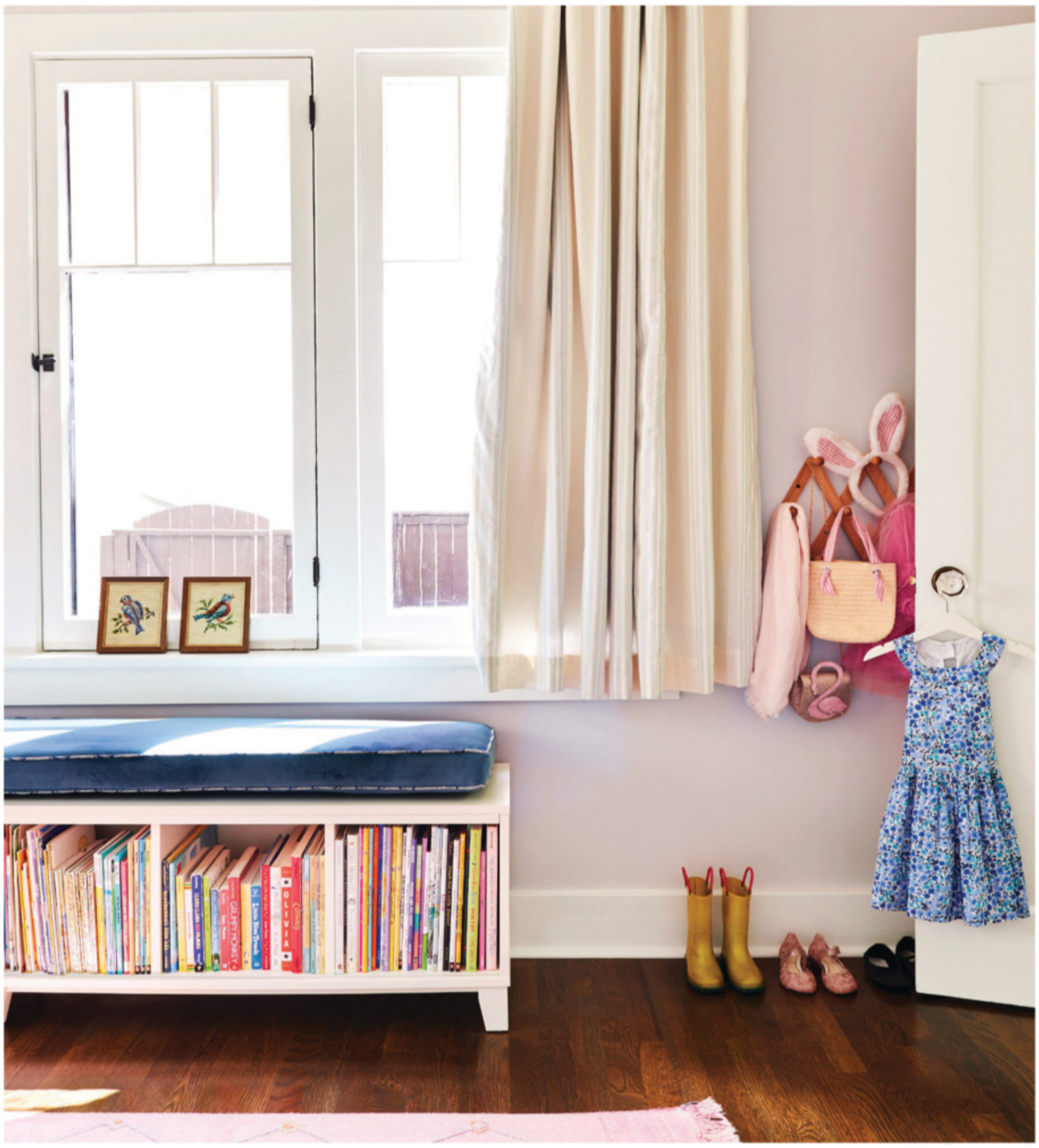


Walls are painted Calamine No. 230 by Farrow & Ball.

Chasman picked up the bright pink rug in the daughter's room during her travels in Marrakesh, Morocco. "To me, the rug ratchets up that soft pink to make the room a little more 'Wow,'" she says. The room's other whimsical details embrace a little playfulness: paint-by-number ballerina artwork, a lamp with a horse-figurine base, and a vintage tole chandelier with winding metal flowers (which Chasman sourced off Instagram).



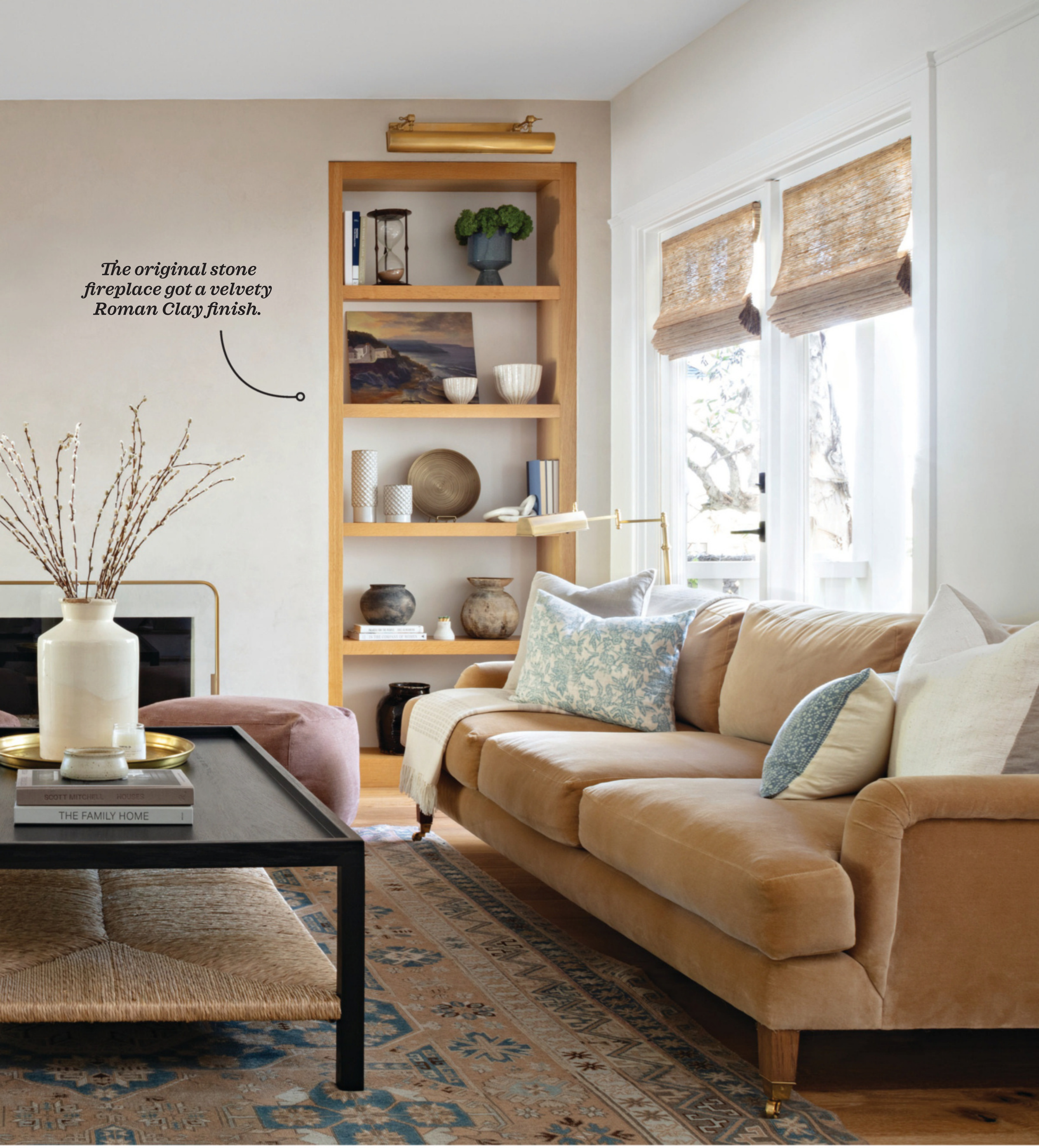




TOP LEFT: Baker Lifestyle wallpaper in a delicate pattern and pinkish-brown and teal tile are an unlikely but attractive trio. To keep an existing window, Chasman placed a sink into a freestanding antique dresser, complete with mirror. Blending modern amenities with the romantic choice softens the room. **TOP RIGHT:** Glazed square zellige tiles, Desert Bloom by Zia Tiles, appear in 4×4-inch format. “The tile is extremely variegated. Some tiles appear more pink and others are more brown,” Chasman says. **ABOVE:** A custom blue cushion sits atop a bench brimming with books in the daughter's room. Chasman hemmed the subtly striped Pottery Barn curtains to hang in line with the windowsill.

Designer Barbi Walters leaned into a palette of warm neutrals and medium-brown wood tones to achieve a calm, grounded feeling in this Pacific Palisades home for a young family.

soft *focus*



The original stone fireplace got a velvety Roman Clay finish.

High style, high comfort. With a serene palette and plenty of texture, this remodel shows off the best of both worlds.

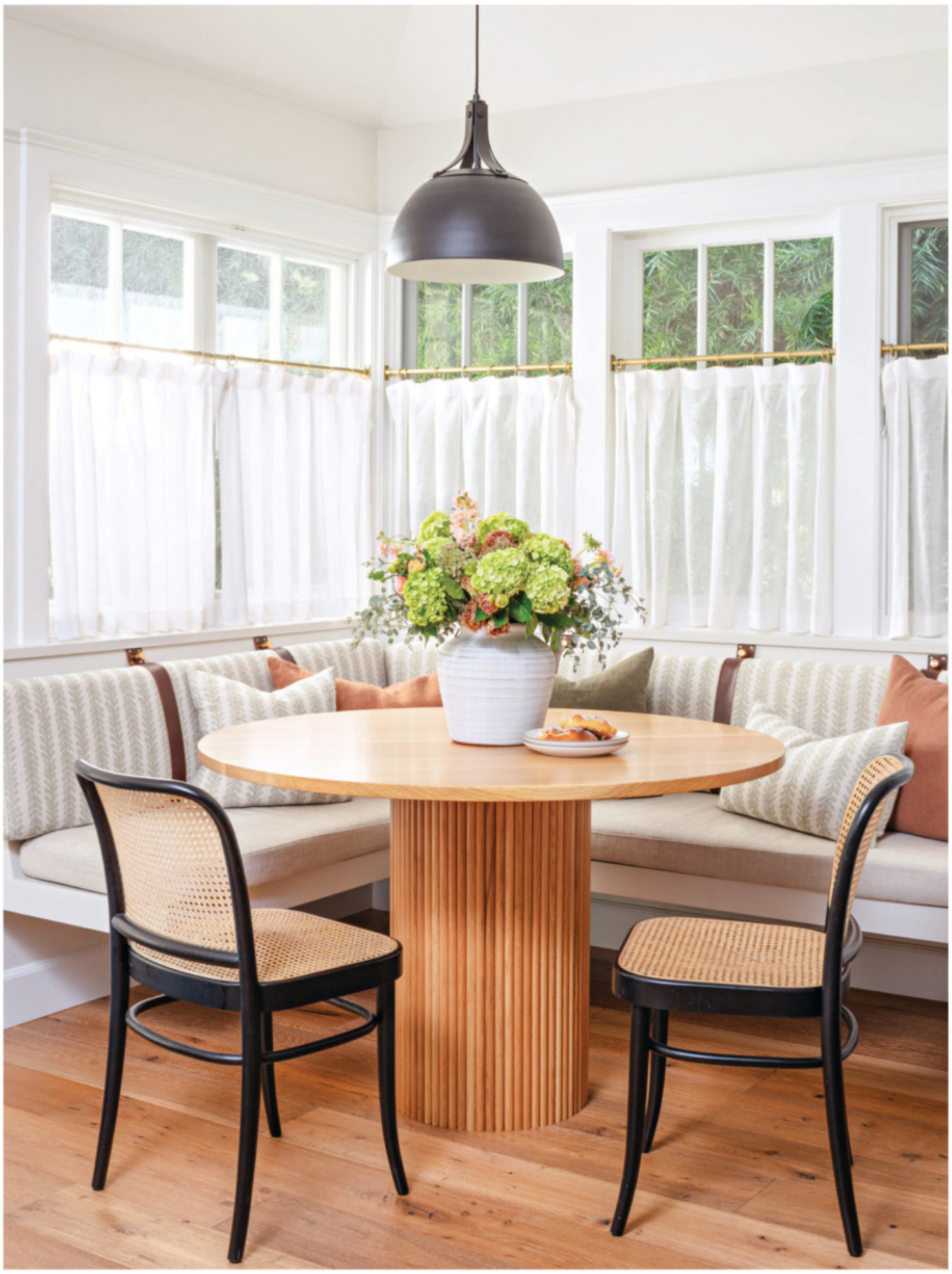
WRITER **MICHELLE MASTRO** PHOTOGRAPHER **EDMUND BARR** STYLIST **KAREN REINECKE**

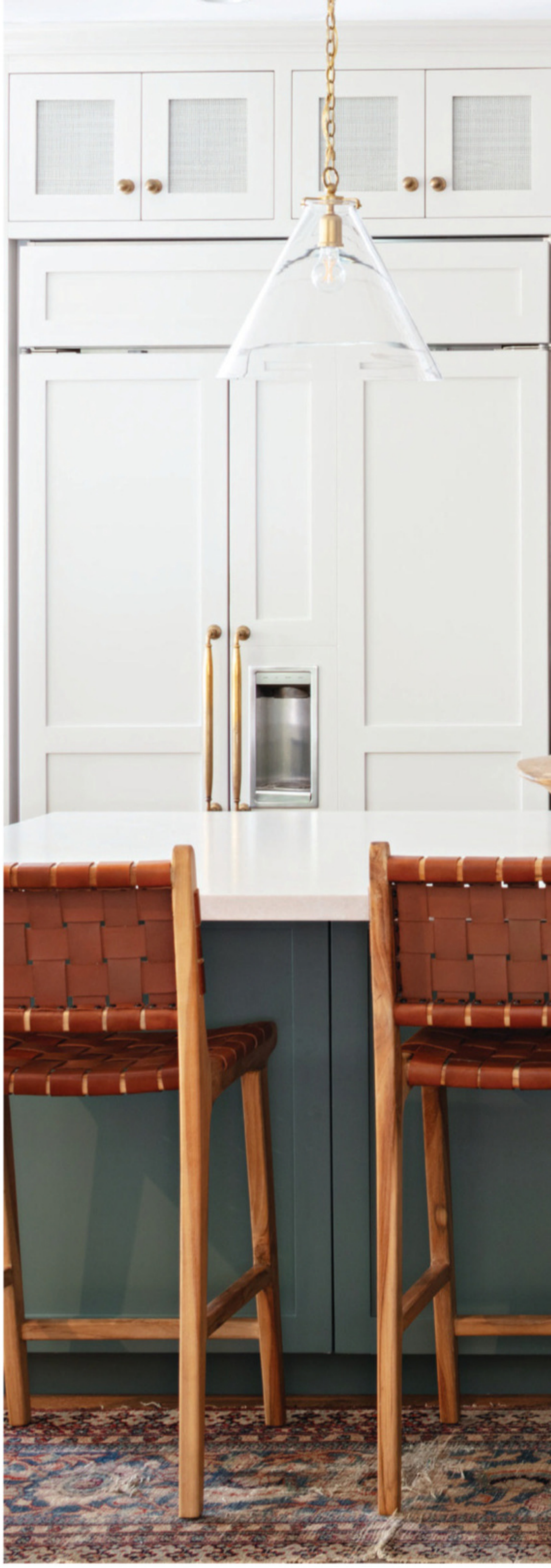
Just inside the front door of this Los Angeles-area home is a worn French writing desk. Designer Barbi Walters chose the antique piece to help the home feel as if it had always been there and give it an immediate sense of history. With the rest of her design, though, Walters was squarely focused on the here-and-now. The home's owners, close friends of the designer, have a toddler and a newborn, so here, Walters says, "Nothing couldn't be bumped into. Other homes might use lots of stone and harder edges. We design houses that people *live* in."

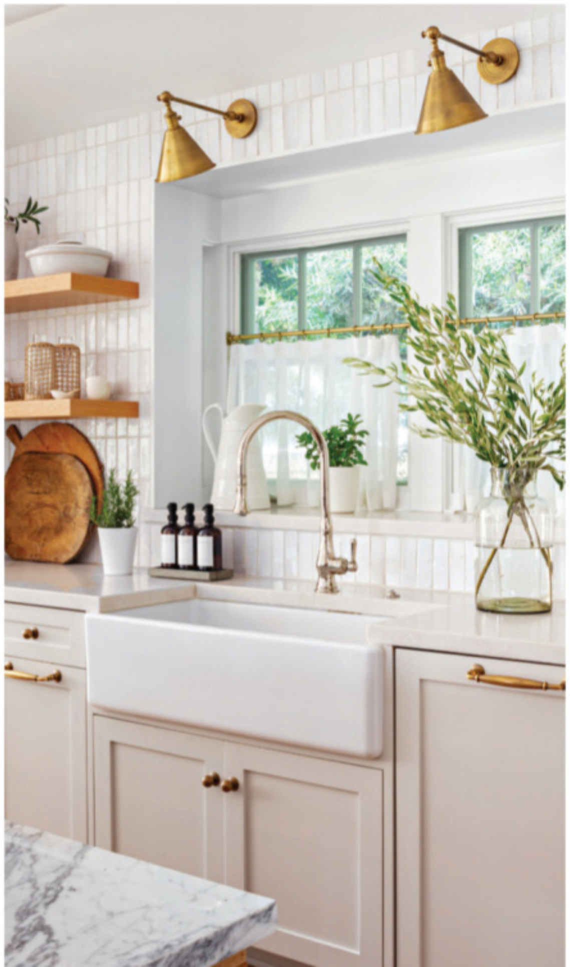
From there, Walters and her team at The Lynden Lane Co. brought in their signature use of light, airy tones and organic textures to create an interior scheme radiating calm, unpretentious livability. That sense starts in the living room, designed to be a sanctuary and a gathering spot for the owners' local family. Walters covered the room's focal point, a dark stone fireplace, with a velvety beige Roman clay, a technique resembling Venetian plaster. "It makes the otherwise simple wall look elevated because it has such a distinct finish," the designer says. She incorporated visual warmth with white oak built-in shelves, cream-color accent chairs, and a spacious camel-color velvet sofa. A few fabric-covered poufs provide additional, moveable seating. Meanwhile, the black coffee table "adds a grounding moment," Walters says, against the soft, neutral palette.

Nearby, the kitchen's deep green island provides a cool counterpoint to all the warm tones in the home. Walters coated the perimeter cabinetry in a stony off-white (Skimming Stone by Farrow & Ball) and chose Perla White quartz countertops for their closeness to the paint color, providing a seamless visual. "We wanted the space

ABOVE RIGHT: Walters turned the foot of the stairs into a sly design moment, ushering in charm with a bench, throw pillows, and a vintage picture she "was waiting to find the perfect spot for," she says. **RIGHT:** Just inside the front door, an antique French writing desk gives the home an air of history. **OPPOSITE:** Because the dining room works as a pass-through space between the living room and kitchen, its decor is purposely minimal.







ABOVE LEFT: The breakfast nook table and chairs, custom-designed by Commune Design in Los Angeles, inject a sophisticated, urbane sensibility. **ABOVE:** The kitchen includes a custom, functional pie table for the homeowner who loves to bake. It also adds to the collected-over-time appeal. **LEFT & FAR LEFT:** Brass lighting and cabinet hardware add to the timeworn touches too. Open wood shelves display wares against a canvas of vertical subway tile, and an apron-front sink echoes the shelves' farmhouse appeal.

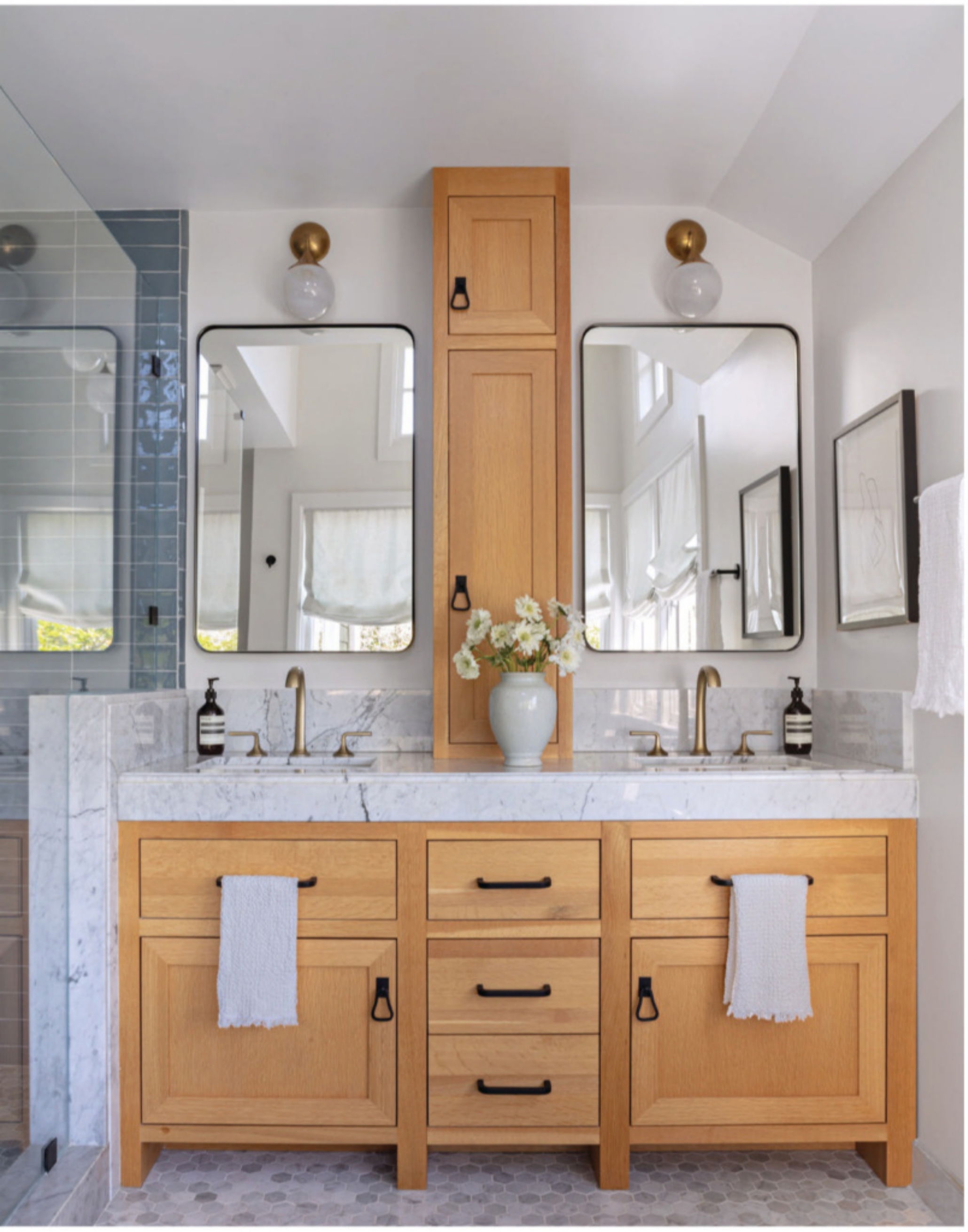
to feel like it all flowed into one design moment, so that your eye didn't stop as you took in the whole kitchen at a glance," Walters explains.

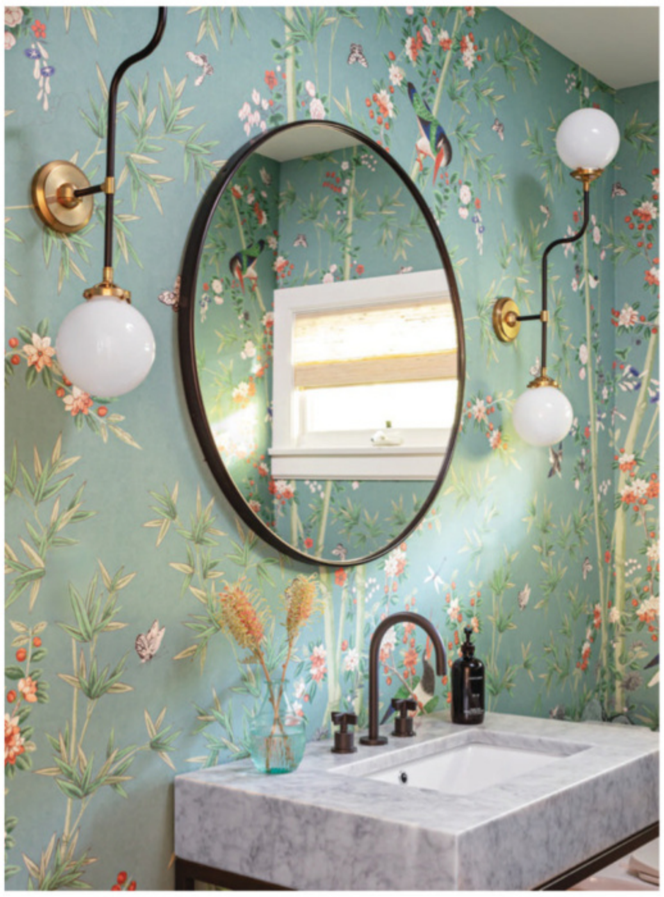
The home's private spaces continue the transitional SoCal aesthetic with a through line of soft neutrals and lots of white oak. But Walters was sure to pepper in whimsical colors, from the kitchen island to the wallpaper in the guest bathroom, to create distinctive, one-of-a-kind spaces all the family's own. Look no further than the baby's room, with wallpaper patterned after the couple's bespoke wedding invitations.

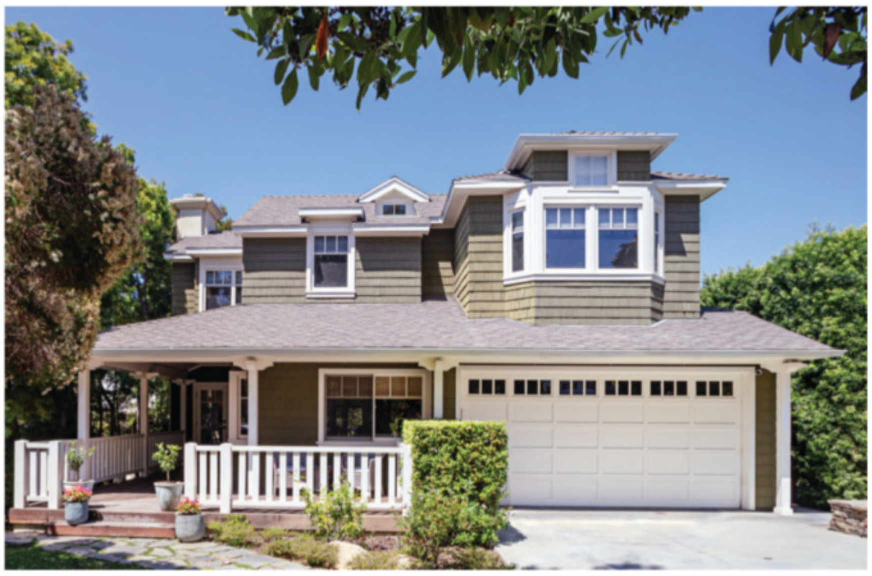
Interior Design: *Barbi Walters, The Lynden Lane Co.*

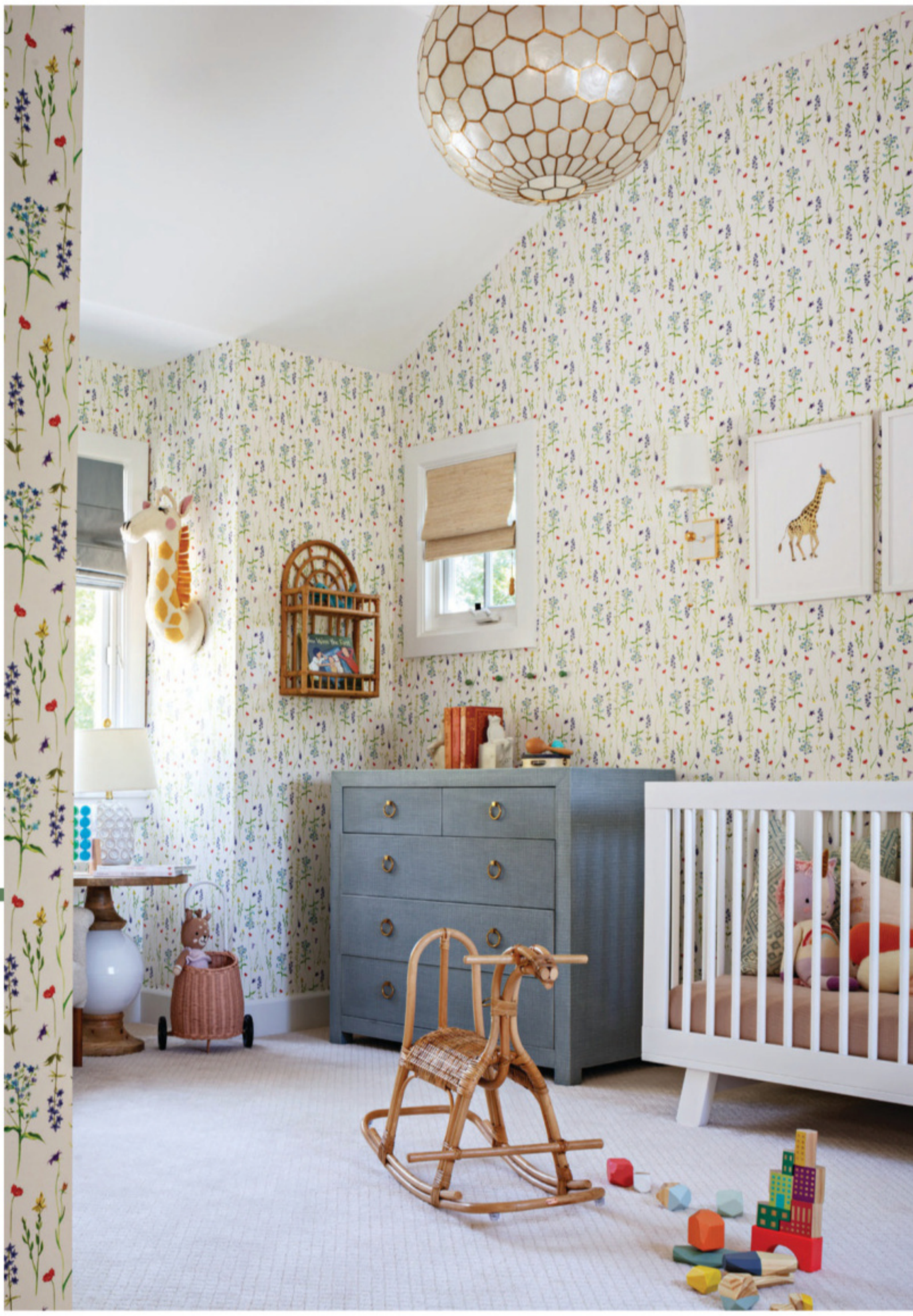
[Editor's Note: Sadly, this home was lost during the 2025 Palisades fires that claimed many of the area's other homes. With Walters' help, the family plans to rebuild and create a new space for their family to gather and grow.]

> “IN A HOME WITH LITTLE ONES, NOTHING CAN BE TOO HARD OR TOO PRECIOUS.”
>
> *—designer Barbi Walters*







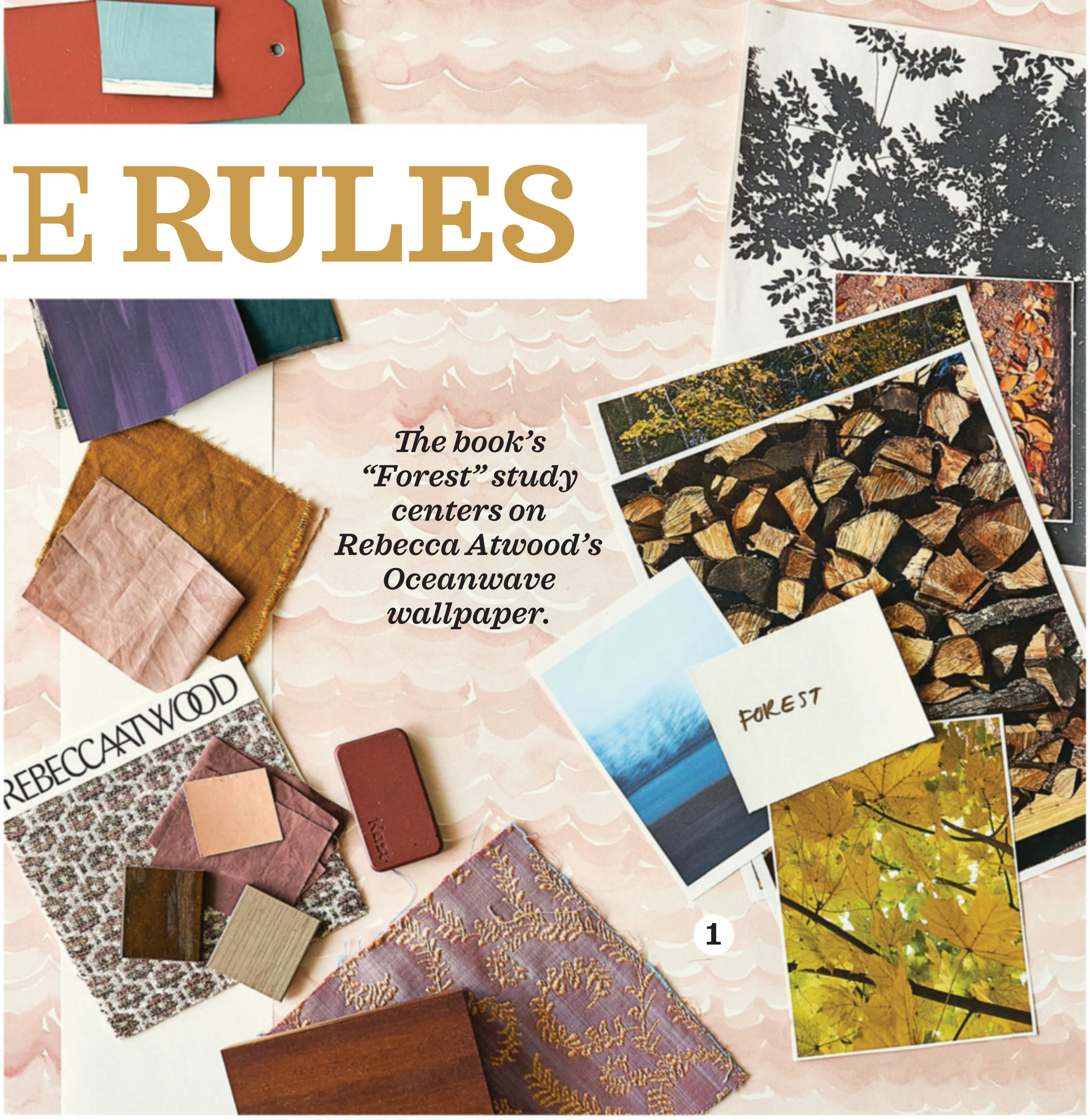


OPPOSITE: The primary bedroom's palette is a continuation of the public spaces, but includes slate blues alongside the wood bed frame and nightstand. **TOP:** In the primary bath, honeyed brass faucets get pride of place against a quartzite countertop and backsplash. **ABOVE:** The home's exterior broadcasts the neutral and earthy shades that abound within. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Floral wallpaper from Crane enlivens the guest bath and gestures to the green kitchen island close by. **RIGHT:** The nursery's custom wallpaper hails from the couple's bespoke wedding invitations crafted by graphic design studio Lotus and Ash.

NATURE RULES

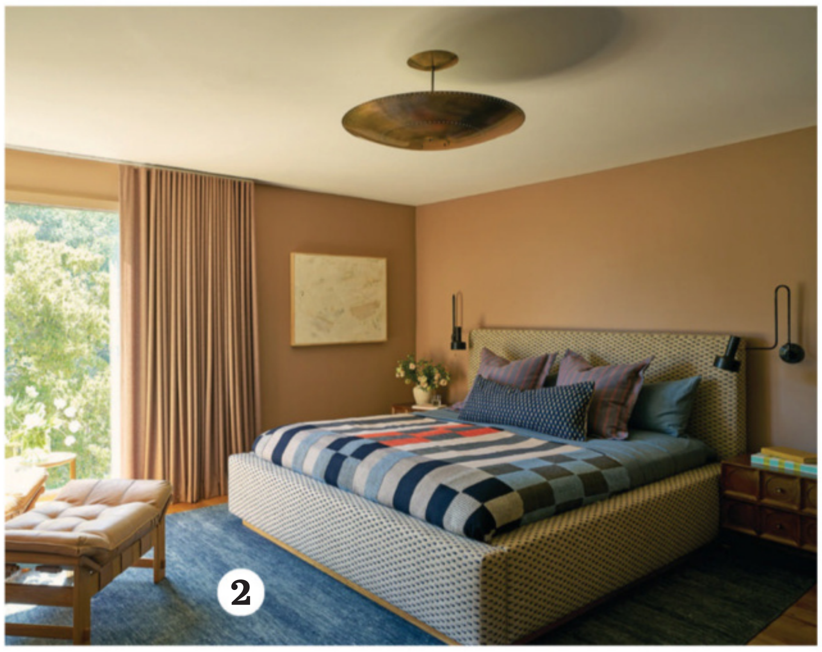
Renowned pattern designer Rebecca Atwood is back with her third book, *The Harmonious Home: Designing Peaceful, Personal Spaces Inspired by Nature*. The work is a study in mood building, as she creates motifs that provoke the senses and celebrate the blend between our built spaces and the natural world. Chapters include studies of dunes, oceans, fields, gardens, city scenes, and forests, shown here. "Long shadows. Light that is dappled, filtered, and sprinkled in. Earthy elements all around. A forest landscape calls for a moody, sheltered, cozy palette," Atwood writes.

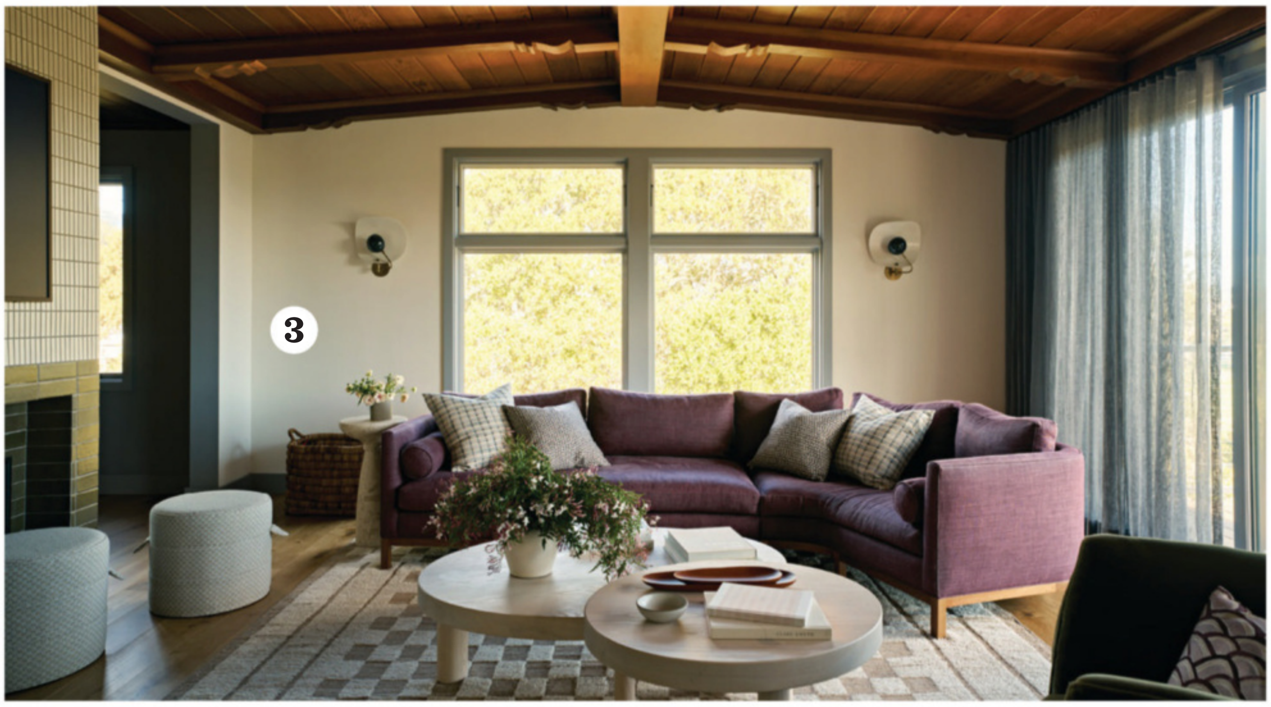
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP **(1)** Each of Atwood's landscape studies begins with an inspiration board. For the forest, she was inspired by a hazy tree line, stacked firewood, and colors rooted in memory—for her, off-season Cape Cod. **(2)** Designed by Katie Monkhouse, the home of Max and Lizzie Perry in Marin County embraces its forested setting. "The rooms don't depend on being bright to feel open and airy," Atwood writes. "Instead, Katie emphasized the moodiness of the spaces by using vertical elements to create a sense of expansiveness." In the primary bedroom, muted pink walls and matching draperies set a monochromatic base for the bed, upholstered in Atwood's Raindrops fabric. **(3)** The living room used the redwood plank ceiling as a starting point, letting the red tones of the wood echo in the dusky purple sofa. **(4)** *The Harmonious Home* by Rebecca Atwood, published by Clarkson Potter, August 25, 2025.



The book's "Forest" study centers on Rebecca Atwood's Oceanwave wallpaper.

The HARMONIOUS HOME
Designing Peaceful, Personal Spaces Inspired by Nature
REBECCA ATWOOD
4





PHOTOGRAPHER: **BLAKE SHORTER**

Better Homes & Gardens® *Cottage Style*™ (ISSN 1552-5759), Fall 2025. *Cottage Style* is published twice a year in March and August by Meredith Operations Corp., 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023. Better Homes & Gardens is a registered trademark in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Better Homes & Gardens marca registrada en México.
© Meredith Operations Corp. 2025. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

ADVERTISEMENT

In Love With Better Homes & Gardens?

Tell Us All About It!

Photo by Jay Wilde

We hope you enjoyed this special Better Homes & Gardens home issue. We'd love to hear your thoughts about what you read and saw in this issue, as well as learn a little about you.

AS A SPECIAL THANK YOU, WE ARE OFFERING A CHANCE TO WIN A $10,000 CASH PRIZE IN OUR ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES!

Survey participation is not necessary to enter or win our sweepstakes, but we do hope you will share your opinions.

GET STARTED

by simply holding your phone's camera up to the code

OR VISIT

dotdashmeredith.com/HomeSurvey

No Purchase Necessary. 2025 Sweepstakes ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on 9/30/25. 2026 Sweepstakes begins at 12:00 a.m. ET on 10/1/25 & ends at 11:59 p.m. ET 9/30/26. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. & D.C., 18+. Void where prohibited. Subject to full Official Rules at https://dotdashmeredith.com/readersweepstakesrules. Sponsored by Dotdash Media Inc.

CURREY
& COMPANY

curreyandcompany.com

Lighting | Furniture | Outdoor | Accessories